

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 285

THURSDAY DECEMBER 6, 2012

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Visit us online @
www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS



Tax revenue and reductions in entitlement spending are key to any deal. **> PAGE 16**

ASIA



The death toll in the Philippines from Typhoon Bopha climbs to more than 100. **> PAGE 17**

LIFE & STYLE



Hugh Hefner and Crystal Harris are again headed for the altar. **> PAGE 21**

Buckingham's petition for writ of mandamus denied. **PAGE 2**
CNMI gets \$80.8K for food, shelter programs. **PAGE 9**

Maratita claims threats; Ayuyu denies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) said Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) repeatedly threatened to kill her when the senator was talking to Maratita's lawyer, Ray Quichocho, on Tuesday afternoon about the no-bid \$190.8-million diesel power purchase deal, but Ayuyu said yesterday he did not make any such death threats.

See **THREATS** on **Page 4**



Maratita



Ayuyu

SDLLC's claims are 'hogwash'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that Saipan Development LLC adviser Kenneth Mahmood's claims about the multimillion shipyard facility and sole-source \$190.8-million power

purchase agreement are a "hogwash," while Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) said this is the "best possible deal for SDLLC, not for the CNMI."

"Mr. Mahmood and Mr. [Jason] Osborne should maybe first get the U.S. Congress to approve the CNMI as a ship

See **SDLLC** on **Page 4**

Death toll from PH typhoon passes 270



By BULLIT MARQUEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW BATAAN, Philippines (AP)—Mud-stained bodies covered with banana leaves were laid out in a row and survivors dried their soiled belongings on the roadside under a bright sun Wednesday, a day after a typhoon killed more than 270 people in the southern Philippines.

See **DEATH TOLL** on **Page 4**

Relatives grieve as they view bodies recovered from floods in New Bataan, Compostela Valley province, southern Philippines Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012. **AP**

Gulick: New cap gives 3,000 new workers for economic growth

» **Another parole extension for those with pending CW applications**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Honolulu district director David G. Gulick told members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday that the 15,000 cap on the number of transitional Commonwealth-only workers for fiscal year 2013 gives room for some 3,000 additional CW workers to accommodate possible economic expansion, even as some employers aired concerns there might not be enough available



workers to keep up with an improving tourism industry.

"They have 3,000 [additional CW-1] workers, that's a huge number of workers for tourism," he said later.

Tourism arrivals to the CNMI have picked up and growth is expected to continue next year.

Under the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, the annual allocation of the number of CW-1 permits issued per year must be reduced until it reaches "zero" by the end of the

transition period on Dec. 31, 2014.

The U.S. Secretary of Labor is authorized to extend the transition period beyond 2014. As of yesterday, there is no telling whether the transition period will be extended.

At the same time, Gulick said in an interview that those who have yet to receive their initial CW-1 permit and have applied for extension of their parole in place may be granted extension up to Jan. 31, 2013. This is for those with still pending CW applications and with parole that expired on Sept. 30.

This is an additional 30 days, from the 90-day extension of up to Dec. 28, 2012, that a USCIS official announced in October.

In his presentation before over 200 **See GULICK** on **Page 4**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Honolulu district director David G. Gulick speaks to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan. **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**



TOUGHER IS SMARTER

FEEL THE TOUGHNESS

Casio GzOne Ravine C751

\$99**



Saipan: 682-4ITE [4483] • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE [4483] • www.ite.net

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

*Terms and conditions apply

Local

Buckingham's petition for writ of mandamus denied

On Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012, the Commonwealth Supreme Court denied former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's petition to overturn the trial court's order declaring him a fugitive from justice.

The underlying criminal case against Buckingham arose from a criminal information obtained by the Office of the Public Auditor. Though initial attempts at service of the penal summons were unsuccessful, Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Hae Jun Park ultimately served Buckingham just before Buckingham boarded a plane and left the Commonwealth.

The trial court issued a bench

warrant for Buckingham's arrest after Buckingham failed to appear for his arraignment. Buckingham filed a motion to quash the bench warrant, which the trial court did not grant. The trial court relied on the "fugitive disentitlement doctrine," which punishes fugitives from justice by preventing them from using the courts until they return and submit to the court's jurisdiction. Buckingham then filed petitions for writs of mandamus and prohibition in the Commonwealth Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court first explained that petitions for writs of mandamus and prohibition are only available in "the most dire of instances." The High Court considered whether Buckingham had another way to challenge the trial court's decision and decided that he did because he can re-file his motion in the trial court if he returns. The High Court also concluded that Buckingham failed to show any prejudice he would face if he returned to the Commonwealth.

The Supreme Court next ex-

amined whether the trial court's order was "clearly erroneous." Even though no Commonwealth court had previously addressed the fugitive disentitlement doctrine, the Supreme Court upheld the trial court's conclusion that the doctrine existed in the Commonwealth as part of the common law of the United States. The High Court also held that the trial court properly applied the doctrine against Buckingham. According to the High Court, applying the doctrine would ensure enforceability of court orders, deter flight, encourage voluntary surrender, maintain the dignity of the Commonwealth judiciary, and

punish Buckingham for flouting the penal summons. For these reasons, the High Court denied Buckingham's petition.

The Supreme Court's full

opinion is *In re Edward T. Buckingham*, 2012 MP 15, and can be found at http://www.cnmi-law.org/supreme_12.htm. (NMI Judiciary)



Buckingham

Off-island Rotarians to meet with Commonwealth counterparts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officials of the Rotary International District 2750 are expected to visit the island and meet with the Rotary Club of Saipan next week.

Pete Shilling and Richard Cody, president and secretary of the Rotary Club of Saipan respectively, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that 2012-13 district governor Takamoto Sakuma, his translator Sonomi Sasayama from Guam, and assistant district governor Michael Perrin will arrive on Dec. 12.

Shilling, at the club's Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, said the group's weekly meeting will have to be moved to Wednesday to accommodate the arrival of the district officials.

Shilling said the visiting district officials will be accompanied on a tour to sites of Rotary Club of Saipan's projects, which include the drive safely

signs throughout the island, the trash bins at the Garapan Fishing Base, and the children's playground at the American Memorial Park.

After the tour, Shilling said the district officials will then meet with the board of directors of the Rotary Club of Saipan.

He disclosed that Rotary Club of Saipan's New Generation director Jeff Boyer is also working on arranging a meeting between the visiting district officials and the Rotary clubs at local high schools.

Cody added that there is a possibility that other Rotary officials from Japan would join next week's visit.

Established in 1968, Rotary Club of Saipan is one of the over 34,200 service clubs dedicated to upholding the principles established by Rotary International, including providing humanitarian services, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and building goodwill and peace in the world.



SHIRLEY'S BEACH CLEANUP

Shirley's Coffee Shop held its monthly beach cleanup last Nov. 19 at the beach in front of the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Chalan Kanoa. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY RICE?
LOOK NO MORE...**

**HAWAII'S #1 Thai Jasmin Rice
GOLDEN FALCON RICE**

Excellent grade of Thai White, Jasmine and Fragrant Rice in various packaging.
Importing a truly high grade of rice.

For every purchase of **50lbs Diamond G Rice (\$26.99)**
you'll get a **FREE 1lb. Golden Falcon Thai Jasmin Rice.**

Available on Monday, December 10, 2012.

IN ALL **TWINS SUPERMARKET** LOCATIONS (DANDAN & LOWER NAVY HILL)
and **GARAPAN HAPPY MARKET.**

EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY: **LW CORPORATION**

**2 Chances to Win
40" Sony Bravia LCD TV!!!**

In Appreciation to our Valued Customers, For a minimum purchase of \$20, get a chance to win a brand new 40" Sony Bravia LCD TV, an Apple Ipad or a 14" laptop. Plus a lot more items to win.

Winners to be drawn on
December 31st 2012
Visit stores for more details.



**\$25.99
50 lbs.**

Shop & Win! Expansion Promo
40" Sony Bravia LCD TV HD

Buy any Nestle Nesquik, Nestle Coffeemate, Nestle Taster's Choice, Carnation Products (US) and Nestea Iced Tea to Get an entry from and have a chance to win a 40" Sony Bravia LCD HDTV. Offer is valid at Twins Dandan Supermarket, Twins Navy Hill Supermarket and Happy Garapan Market. Promo period from November 12, 2012 - January 11, 2013.



Federal public health grants remain stable in the CNMI

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the challenges it faces

with the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. assures that federal public

health grants remain stable in the CNMI.

According to acting public health director Frances Pangelinan, a total of \$19 million in grants from various federal health programs were awarded to the corporation in fiscal year 2012—believed to be the same amount that will be awarded to the organization this fiscal year.

“We might have the same funding for next fiscal year... so we are stable with our federal health programs,” said Pangelinan.

According to her, in the first month of fiscal year 2013 alone, the corporation got \$14 million in total grants so far, mainly due to awards granted for the Women and Infant Children program, which is

quarterly funded.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are about 16 federally funded programs at the Division of Public Health.

The federal health grants fund 139 positions, of which 14 are partially funded, which means a portion of the salaries of these positions are paid for by corporation monies.

Pangelinan disclosed that the 14 partially funded positions by federal agencies include one doctor, two nurses, one epidemiologist, and 10 staff at the Bureau of Environmental Health.

Based on Pangelinan’s report, public health federal programs expended about \$868,000 for personnel cost in fiscal year 2012. For the

current fiscal year, she projects a 47-percent reduction in expenditure due to a decrease in FTEs. Assuming that no changes will be made on the current trend, Pangelinan projects expenditures to reach only \$465,000 in fiscal year 2013—or \$38,000 per month.

Since the corporation’s takeover of the former Department of Public Health in fiscal year 2011, the organization has centralized the management of its federal programs. However, despite a memorandum of agreement between the corporation and the Fitial administration last year, it was learned that indirect cost associated with handling these federal programs remains in the custody of the Executive Branch.

The amount, for all federally funded health programs, is estimated at about \$1.2 million.

Board member Anthony Raho believes that since the indirect cost associated for federal health programs remains with the central government, it is proper that local matching for the salaries of 14 positions should be shouldered by the government and not the corporation, which has no separate budget for this purpose.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta assured that once the MOU takes effect, the \$1.2 million indirect cost for federal health programs will be transferred to the corporation’s account. He could not immediately say, however, when this will actually be implemented.

DUE TO DEPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED STAFF TO TEACH IN CLASSROOMS:

PSS central language arts, other programs are now being affected

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many programs in the Public School System’s central office are now being impacted by budget constraints, largely due to the decision to deploy central staff to handles classes, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.

Sablan, before her trip to Washington, D.C. last week to lobby for more federal monies for NMI schools, disclosed that at least three programs at the central office have no staff after she decided to reassign them to teach in the classrooms. She revealed that highly qualified teachers who are assigned in language arts, career technological education, and networks communication programs have been assigned to different schools to help fill needed teaching positions.

As a result of their deployment, Sablan revealed that the “void” created by the situation are being filled by program managers and associate commissioners for instruction and services. According to the COE, programs at the central office provide professional developments, technical assistance, and support to other programs in schools.

For the language arts program, Sablan said three staffers left the program to cover teaching jobs in schools.

“This, for example, leaves a void in the program’s implementation. Because these staffers are out there in our schools, the managers or the associate commissioner takes responsibility of the program [in addition to their other duties],” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that instruction in schools remains the priority

of her administration.

Due to lack of staff to facilitate the CTE program in central office, Sablan said she asked a principal to take the lead in collaboration with the associate commissioner.

Since the opening of the school year, even program managers who are qualified to teach were asked to teach in the classrooms to minimize large class size ratios, which went as high as 38 students per teacher. Board of Education policy only allows up to 28 students per teacher in the classroom.

This fiscal year 2013, PSS was allocated only \$31 million for its personnel and operations. Because of its meager budget, Sablan froze the hiring of key positions, including vice principals and counselors. Until additional money is identified and received by the system, this situation will remain for PSS.

The commissioner disclosed that for the new school year, PSS has a total of 10,646 enrollees from Head Start to high school on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This year’s enrollment is a slight decrease from last school year’s enrollment of 11,011 students.

As of September this year, the teaching population of PSS is over 400 versus nearly 11,000 students.

Sablan also pointed out that schools will continue to implement the four-hour limit use of air-conditioning units to continue saving on energy costs. However, she reiterated that schools are given the flexibility to use this time limit in hours they believe are most appropriate and needed by students.

Close monitoring of fuel consumption in every school is also being observed, targeting to reduce by half its current fuel cost.

Two over-the-cap salaries OK’d

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified and approved the over-the-cap salaries of deputy attorney general Viola Alepuyo and assistant attorney general Michael A. Stanker.

In separate letters to the Legislature, the governor said Alepuyo will receive an annual salary of \$75,000, while Stanker will receive \$54,000 annually.

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at \$50,000. However, the law gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling and submit

a certification to the Legislature.

“By copy of this letter, I am also advising the chairman of the Civil Service Commission of this certification,” Fitial said in his Nov. 28 and Nov. 29 letters to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

Most of the over-the-cap salaries are for attorneys at the Office of the Attorney General and physicians and other medical staffers at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

TOUGHER IS SMARTER

FEEL THE TOUGHNESS



CASIO COMMANDO

5.0 MP Camera
Ruggedized
Skype Mobile
Touch Screen
Mobile Hotspot

\$249*



Casio GzOne Ravine C751

\$99**

ANDROID 500 PLAN

\$59

PER MONTH

*** FREE Long Distance to US (Including Alaska & Hawaii) Canada, South Korea, Australia, Hong Kong & China

*Some conditions apply • Must sign up for 2-yr contract on Android 500 Plan • **Must sign up for 300 minute plan or higher

500 AIRTIME MINUTES
UNLIMITED Local Text Messaging
UNLIMITED 3G Android Data
FREE Long Distance to the US, S. Korea
China, and more!*



Life in Motion

682-4ITE (4483)
www.ite.net
customer@itehq.net

Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483)
Chalan LauLau Customer Care Ofc. • Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza)

New Store Hours • Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza) Tuesday to Saturday • 10:00AM - 6:00PM

DEATH TOLL

From Page 1

Officials feared many more bodies could be found as rescuers reach hard-hit areas that had been isolated by landslides, floods and downed communications.

At least 151 people have died in the worst-hit province of Compostela Valley since Typhoon Bopha began lashing the region early Tuesday, including 66 villagers and soldiers who perished in a flash flood that swamped two emergency shelters and a military camp in New Bataan town, provincial spokeswoman Fe Maestre told The Associated Press.

About 80 people survived the deluge in New Bataan with injuries, but an unspecified number of villagers remain missing. On Wednesday, the farming town of 45,000 people was a muddy wasteland of collapsed houses and columns of coconut and banana trees felled by Bopha's ferocious winds.

Outside a town gymnasium, several mud-stained bodies were laid side-by-side, covered by cloth and banana leaves and surrounded by villagers covering their noses to fight the stench. A man sprayed insecticide on the remains to turn away swarms of flies.

"It's hard so say how many more are missing," Maestre said. "We're now searching everywhere."

In nearby Davao Oriental, the coastal

province first struck by the typhoon as it blew inland from the Pacific Ocean, at least 115 people perished mostly in three towns that were so battered by the wind it was hard to find any building or house with a roof left, provincial officer Freddie Bendulo and other officials said.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CHAMBER

"Santa Claus" delights the crowd with his presence and presents at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan yesterday. The Chamber also hosted its Student Exploration Day luncheon, bringing together some 70 students and their sponsoring Chamber members.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



GULICK

From Page 1

Chamber members and guests at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, Gulick explained how the U.S. Department of Homeland Security arrived at a cap of 15,000 CW-1 workers for fiscal year 2013, a 33-percent drop from the 22,416 limit for fiscal year 2012.

In fiscal 2011, the cap was at 22,417. This went down by one in fiscal 2012, or at 22,416.

This was also explained in detail in the Nov. 30 Federal Register, when DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the 15,000 cap for fiscal 2013.

With a cap of 22,416 in fiscal 2012, DHS received only 12,247 filings to date—or 11,927, taking into account 320 denials to date, which DHS rounded to the nearest thousand, which is 12,000.

DHS then added an additional 25 percent to the 12,000 "to accommodate possible economic growth that might lead to a need for additional CW workers, for a total of 15,000," Napolitano said.

This number of CW-1 workers will be available beginning on Oct. 1, 2012.

"DHS may adjust the numerical limitation for a fiscal year or other period, in its discretion, at any time via notice in the Federal Register... Consistent with the rules applicable to other non-immigrant worker visa classifications, if the numerical limitation for the fiscal year is not reached, the unused numbers do not carry over to the next fiscal year," Napolitano said.

Each CW-1 worker who is listed on a Form I-129CW is counted against the numerical limitation at the time USCIS receives the petition.

Counting the petitions in this manner will help ensure that USCIS does not approve requests for more than 15,000 CW-1 workers. If the number of CW-1 workers approaches the 15,000 limit, USCIS will hold any subsequently filed petition until a final determination is made on the petitions that are already included in the numerical count.

"Subsequently filed petitions will be forwarded for adjudication in the order in which they were received until USCIS has approved petitions for the maximum number of CW workers; any remaining petitions that were held or that are newly received will be rejected," Napolitano said.

Gulick told Chamber members and guests yesterday that if a CW-1 worker works for two employers, for example, that number counts toward the 15,000 cap.

The USCIS district director also reminded employers that if workers qualify for H visas, then they should start applying for these types of visas rather than CW permits.

"Remember, the CW-1 program is for workers who are not eligible for any other nonimmigrant category," Gulick said.

CNMI employers are also reminded to start applying for an extension of their employees' initial CW permits at least 90 days before the expiration of the permits.

In applying for the CW-1 renewal,

employers need to submit a filled out Form I-129CW, petition for CNMI-only nonimmigrant transitional worker, which has a fee of \$325, and CNMI education funding fee of \$150. These two separate checks should be payable to the "Department of Homeland Security." Employers should "not" include biometrics fee when applying for renewal.

Gulick said there are still common mistakes many employers make in their petitions, including attestations that were not signed and incorrect fees. Each petition should include: an attestation for each worker; evidence to support employer's attestation that he has tried to hire a U.S. worker for the position; copies of recent pay statements or W-2s to show that the worker has been employed and is being compensated at the salary represented in the filing; and documentation to show that the employer is still doing business such as tax returns. If the position requires a license, employers should send a photo of the license. The employer's attestation should be a "new" advertisement for the job, not the original one. Employers are reminded time and again to hire available and qualified U.S. workers.

More information is available at www.uscis.gov/cnmi or www.uscis.gov/cw.

Gulick will also be one of the guest speakers in today's Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter's employment law compliance conference also at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

SDLLC

From Page 1

repair facility and then once that becomes law then maybe, just maybe, we can start talking about a power plant," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Osborne, consultant for Allegiance Capital, said his main task is to push for legislation to allow U.S. military vessels to be repaired in the CNMI.

Dela Cruz said Mahmood and Osborne themselves claim that a 50-megawatt power plant will cost \$70 million but because of financing, it's going to cost \$190 million.

"So basically they are saying \$120 million is for financing alone," he said. "In the first place, we don't need a 50MW diesel power plant. What is it that these gentlemen and the governor don't understand? What the CNMI needs now is renewable, alternative energy to supplement our existing baseload diesel plant."

He said the CNMI should also be looking at cheaper producing baseload plant.

"Again, not another diesel plant," added Dela Cruz, chairman of the Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Mahmood said SDLLC looked at natural gas. But he said it is not feasible for a 50-MW power plant. He said natural gas is good for at least a 100-MW power plant.

Dela Cruz said the CNMI should ask Mahmood about his experience with diesel power plant and liquefied natural gas.

"Maybe we should ask him how many power plants have they built and where? As far as I'm concerned, they are nothing but brokers or middlemen trying to make a quick buck from the CNMI and its people," he said.

Mahmood has said that the multimillion shipyard facility and new 50-megawatt power plant in Lower Base is the best deal possible for the CNMI, and hopes that the people of the islands can get behind these projects to spur economic growth.

Maratita, who filed an injunction on the power purchase agreement, said the PPA is bad for the CNMI and its people.

"It is the best possible deal for SDLLC, not the CNMI and its people," she said.

Mahmood also said that impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who has less than two years left on his term, and local politics are not helping lure more investors into the CNMI.

Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC bagged a sole-source, \$190.8-million diesel power purchase deal that the governor and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed off on.

SDLLC is co-founded by David Mahmood of Allegiance Capital Corp. and Don Kurz of Keystone Shipping. David and Kenneth Mahmood are brothers.

SDLLC plans to set up a shipyard facility in Lower Base that will encompass the current location of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Part of the shipyard project is the development of a 50-megawatt power plant.

THREATS

From Page 1

Maratita happened to be in the room discussing some matters with her lawyer, Quichocho, when Ayuyu phoned Quichocho. The lawyer's cellular phone was on speaker mode, and Maratita said she could hear the conversation between Ayuyu and Quichocho.

Ayuyu said when he was making the call, there were two other senators in the room with him: Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

"I know what I said. I didn't make those threats," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*.

Maratita and Quichocho said in their complaint filed with the Department of Public Safety on Tuesday that Ayuyu made "numerous" threats in Chamorro to "kill" Maratita.

Quichocho said: "Senator Ayuyu was making threats toward his client Ms. Maratita and that Senator Ayuyu

sounded very angry."

Maratita and Quichocho told police that Ayuyu said this over the phone, addressed to Quichocho: "*Sangani I yomu client na bai hu sen puno gui, ya chania hu fafattu magi gi Senate sa an masuda ham gi hallway ta fan atitek! Ta fan apuno! Bai hu sen puno enao I yomu client as Janet!* (Tell your client that I am going to kill her, she should not come to the Senate because when we meet in the hallway we are going to tear each other up and break each other. We are going to kill each other. I am really going to kill your client Janet)."

Ayuyu, in a phone interview yesterday, said he told Quichocho over the phone that if he sees Maratita in the Legislature's hallway, he will tell her his frustration related to her letter addressed to the senator.

Maratita wrote a letter to Ayuyu on Monday, asking him to stop meeting with SDLLC officials on the power purchase agreement so as not to compromise their legal position on the case. Maratita was referring to a meeting two weeks ago between SDLLC

adviser Kenneth Mahmood, Ayuyu, Hofschneider, and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan). Also in that meeting was Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Maratita, along with Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) and the Senate, filed a lawsuit against the PPA and there is currently an injunction on that PPA.

Ayuyu said yesterday that he asked Quichocho whether there was a temporary restraining order against him, prohibiting him from speaking to SDLLC.

SDLLC bagged a sole-source \$190.8-million PPA for 25 years. That PPA was signed by the governor and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham on Aug. 3, a day before Buckingham left the CNMI. The PPA is among the issues cited in a defeated resolution impeaching Fitial for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

Maratita and Quichocho told DPS that when Ayuyu asked whether there was a TRO against him, the senator "made threats again by saying "*Sangani I yomu client as Janet Maratita na bai hu sen puno gui!* (Tell you client

Janet Maratita that I am going to kill her!) *Bai hu titek gue!* (I'm going to tear her)."

In the DPS report, Maratita said that Ayuyu also stated, "*Ti hu estatani gue, hu sen puno enao!* (I'm not joking around, I'll kill her!)"

Maratita said in the police report that Ayuyu "stated that numerous times. I later learned that the phone conversation lasted for about 13 minutes. Mr. Quichocho stated that he received the call around 3:45pm and lasted to about 3:58pm."

Maratita, in a phone interview yesterday, said she is fine and despite the threats from Ayuyu, she will continue to go to the Legislature and do her job as a lawmaker.

"I trust that the authorities will do their job as I also do my job," she said, adding that she continues to feel threatened and shaken by the threats.

Ayuyu reiterated that he was only expressing his frustration about Maratita when he phoned Quichocho on Tuesday.

The senator said Maratita was not re-

turning his calls and that she was "ruining my reputation as a senator."

Ayuyu said he was invited to a meeting with SDLLC representatives and, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, he would like to get information about the PPA.

"She's stepping over my boundary as a senator," Ayuyu said.

Ayuyu reiterated that if and when SDLLC officials set a meeting with the Senate PUTC, he would like the meeting to be held at the Legislature and open to the general public.

On Monday, Maratita said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and SDLLC should be held in contempt and fined up to \$10,000 daily for allegedly violating a temporary restraining order prohibiting them from pursuing and/or performing on the sole-source \$190.8-million PPA.

Maratita, through Quichocho, also requested the Superior Court to enter an order to show cause why Fitial and SDLLC should not be held in contempt.

Cedrick the Magician topbills 'Santa-via-Skype' show

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Get into the holiday season and witness Christmas magic at the "Santa-via-Skype" show scheduled at 2pm on Saturday, Dec. 8, at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater.

The multimedia magic show, which caters to audiences of all ages, features magic and technology put together to celebrate Santa's arrival, tracking the most iconic Christmas symbol and his incredible journey from the North Pole to the show's venue.

Tickets to the show cost \$5 per person when purchased in advance and \$10 at the door.

Saturday's show will run less than an hour and would be topbilled by Cedrick the Magician for his first ever public show.

Born Jim Cedrick Libut, Cedrick the Magician is an up-and-coming conjurer whose passion for magic began at the age of 9 when he saw on television the one-night marathon of the "World's Greatest Magic" aired by ABC Family.

Although he has performed for friends and family members during birthday parties and presentations, the 20-year-old stage magician said his career as a professional magician has just started, and his employment as stage technician at SandCastle Saipan inspired him all the more.

"I never thought it would come to this, when I would really pursue it as a career. But I'm glad it did happen," Cedrick the Magician said in an interview on Monday, taking a break from his technical rehearsal for his forthcoming show.

"Magic is a lot simpler than we think. It's our job to make it possible and look easy. It's very nice to be performing onstage and see people's reactions," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cedrick the Magician recognized his friends at SandCastle Saipan, particularly Chris Zubrick and Ryan Makowski, who have been extremely helpful since he expressed his interest to learn more about magic. "They saw the hard work I'm putting into it so they're really striving to make this the best show it could possibly be."

"Santa-via-Skype" is expected to be a sold-out show, with only a few tickets left to the event, which was mainly advertised by word of mouth, according to Cedrick. He acknowledged his family and friends who have been supportive and played an important role in promoting the show.

A native of Tinian, Cedrick the Magician said his father Conrado took the lead in printing the tickets and posters. The Grace Christian

Academy alumnus also noted that his mother, Joji, will be flying in to see him perform for the first time.

"My parents love me uncon-

ditionally. I'm blessed to have them. I put them through so much ups and downs, change of plans and career, but they supported me," added Cedrick

who used to be an engineering major at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

He described himself as the kind of magician who is en-

ergetic and wants to have fun while performing so that both he and his audiences can have a great time.

"I love magic. I love making people smile and happy and just amaze them," said Cedrick the Magician who looks up to Chris and Ryan, and other world-renowned magicians like Anthony Reed, Lance Burton, and Alex Ramon.

Cedrick the Magician disclosed that his career as a magician is off to a great start, with several offers left and right even before his first magic show, making him feel excited and blessed.

As for those who have yet to find their professional calling, Cedrick the Magician said, "Just dream big and go for it. The possibilities are endless if you just work hard. Dreams are attainable."

To buy tickets or for more information, visit cedrickmagic.com or contact Cedrick the Magician at 789-9197 or contact@cedrickmagic.com.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Cedrick the Magician is seen here during a technical rehearsal Monday for his upcoming Christmas magic show called "Santa-via-Skype" at 2pm on Saturday, Dec. 8, at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater.

INVENTORY SALE

PRINTING PRESS SUPPLIES

	NEGATIVE PS PLATE DEVELOPER 5 LITERS \$37.00		SAPPHIRE FILM DEVELOPER REFINISHER 5 LITERS \$30.00		SAPPHIRE FILM FIXER REPLENISHER 5 LITERS \$30.00
	ABC ROLLER WASH 1 GAL. \$27.70		ABC GREEN FOUNT 20 LITERS \$125.00		ABC GUM SOLUTION 6 L. SOLD OUT \$12.90
	ABC MASTER SPRAY POWDER 1 KG. \$13.25		WESTERN PN RED DEVELOPER 1 GAL. \$78.00		BLUE LABEL PLATE CLEANER 1 LITER \$12.80
	GRAINING SAND 25 KG. \$23.00		BLANCHER OFFSET INK 1 KG. BLACK: \$12.25 CYAN: \$15.25 MAGENTA: \$15.25 YELLOW: \$15.40		KLEENTEC OFFSET INK 1 KG. BLACK: \$8.25 BLUE: \$9.50 RED: \$9.50 YELLOW: \$9.75
	KURO FILM FOR IMAGESETTER 63.5cm x 60m \$455.00		NEWSPRINT PAPER 34-1/8" x 24-1/8" 1 REAM (480 SHEETS) \$21.50		NEWSPRINT PAPER 32" x 24" 1 REAM (480 SHEETS) \$21.50

Saipan Tribune Inc. • Tels.: (670) 235-2440; 235-8747; 235-6397; 235-2769

We're OPEN!

Garapan Restaurant

SUSHI BAR • KOREAN BBQ

Best Food
and
Cheap Price

Beer \$2.00
/can

Draft Beer \$3.50
Miller Lite/Budweiser/
Bud Light

We also sell Bento at A-One Gift Shop
(from 7:00am-11:00pm) **\$3.00 - \$6.00**
after 6:00pm 30% OFF • after 9:00pm 50% OFF

Opens Daily

Lunch from
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Dinner from
5:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Located on the 2nd Floor
of A one Gift Shop

For reservation,
please call 233-7000

All new restaurant equipment

TROPICAL BLENDZ

Juice Bar & Vegetarian Dishes

Food for Life

Now open to serve you:

- ☞ freshly squeezed fruit and vegetable juices ☞
- ☞ luscious fruit smoothies and protein shakes ☞
- ☞ daily fresh soups, salads and sandwiches ☞
- ☞ homemade falafels ☞

BUSINESS HOURS:

Monday-Friday 7:30am-5:00pm • Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm
Closed on Wednesdays & Sundays

Tel: 233-8809 • Email: tropicalblendzsaipan@gmail.com
Located on Middle Road, Garapan across Central Park (next to Nila Salon)

SPC strengthens efforts to reduce STI's in Pacific region

SUVA, Fiji—While the world’s attention was focused on World AIDS Day last Saturday, we must remember that high rates of sexually transmitted infections leave Pacific Islanders particularly vulnerable to HIV. In some Pacific countries, as many as one in two young people have chlamydia, an infection that, if left untreated, can lead to serious reproductive and other health problems.

“If you have an STI, you are at greater risk of HIV due to behavioural, biological and gender-related factors,” said Dr. Dennie Iniakwala, HIV and STI team leader at SPC.

Despite the high rates of STI’s across the Pacific region, there have been significant successes.

Nauru and the Cook Islands, for example, where chlamydia has been aggressively targeted, have made considerable progress. In 2009, 49 percent of

pregnant women in Nauru had chlamydia. In the Cook Islands, it was one in five. By 2012, the proportion of pregnant women with chlamydia in Nauru and the Cook Islands had dropped to 4 percent and 10 percent respectively.

“In Nauru, STI control measures, mass treatment for chlamydia, coupled with community awareness and education were actively used to address high STI rates, with a particular emphasis on condom promotion,” said Dr. Seta Vatucawaqa, director of Public Health at the Nauru Public Health Center.

“Advocacy and media collaboration were the underpinning pillars to the campaign with special care given to cultural and religious sensitivity.

“Workshops were conducted for all district leaders, youth, women’s groups, church leaders, health workers, and people in work places. Brochures and

posters were disseminated and key health officers delivered TV interviews,” said Vatucawaqa.

The progress made not only in Nauru and the Cook Islands but across Pacific Island Countries and Territories can be attributed to a large extent to the support provided by SPC public health specialists.

In the first half of 2012, for example, SPC specialists trained 233 health workers and volunteers in HIV and STI prevention in 10 PICT’s, supported the implementation of HIV testing in at least one laboratory in 12 PICT’s, and provided technical assistance toward the development of National Strategic Plans in four PICT’s.

“The SPC Public Health Division provides support to PICT’s in STI and HIV prevention; counselling and diagnosis; treatment, care and support as well as leadership, governance

and strategic communication.

“This support means that PICT’s are making progress in the response to the STI epidemic sweeping the Pacific, and are better equipped to protect their populations from HIV,” said Dr Iniakwala.

“These activities are made possible due to funding from the HIV and STI Pacific Response Fund, supported by Australia and New Zealand, and the Global Fund for HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis. Together these Funds are making an impact on the STI and HIV

epidemic in the Pacific region’ he added.

Although, outside of Papua New Guinea, HIV infection rates are low in the Pacific, sustained STI prevention and control are key to ensuring that HIV does not increase to the levels experienced in other parts of the world.

“While STI control is being implemented in most Pacific Island countries and territories, we must ensure that prevention campaigns, comprehensive STI management and targeted screening and treatment for most at risk and vulnerable

populations continues to be rolled out,’ said “PICT’s will need to work toward reducing STI prevalence, achieving zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination of people living with HIV and zero HIV-related deaths,” agreed Dr. Sophaganine Ty Ali, SPC’s STI and counselling adviser.

On this World AIDS Day, SPC joins our partners in encouraging all Pacific Islanders, especially young people, to visit their health clinic for counseling and STI testing. STI’s can be easily treated if detected early. (SPC)

Corrections officer tests positive for ice

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chief U.S. Probation Officer Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon reported to the federal court yesterday that Jesse Reyes Babauta, who is presently on bail, violated the conditions of his temporary release after testing positive for use of methamphetamine or ice.

Babauta is a Corrections officer who is facing ice and gun charges in federal court. In September, he was temporarily released on a \$100,000 bond. Babauta was then restricted to his home at all times; be subject to monitoring and drug testing; and should not possess a firearm or other weapon, among other conditions.

In a four-page document filed yesterday, Villagomez-Aguon asked the court that

Babauta’s pretrial release conditions be amended to include his participation in a program of inpatient or outpatient substance abuse therapy and counseling if directed by pre-trial services office or supervising officer.

According to the latest court filing, Babauta tested positive for the use of ice on Nov. 8, 2012. Babauta allegedly admitted to using the drug. On Nov. 9, 2012, during a compliance meeting with his probation officer, Babauta agreed to take part in substance abuse treatment. Babauta was represented in court by counsel Michael Dotts, who also signed the consent to modify conditions of his client’s release.


Babauta is charged with distribution of methamphetamine; distribution of methamphetamine near schools and

colleges; and using or carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.


Also named in the complaint was Delbert Reyes Sablan. Babauta was arrested last Aug. 22 and the preliminary hearing was scheduled for Aug. 31, 2012. He was then ordered to be detained pending further proceedings.

On Aug. 31, 2012, an arraignment hearing was held and Babauta entered a plea of not guilty. His jury trial is scheduled for Jan. 7, 2013.

The federal court earlier imposed a \$100,000 appearance bond for the temporary release of Babauta. According to the indictment, Babauta conspired with other persons to distribute “ice” from June 2010 until Aug. 22, 2012, in one instance within 1,000 feet of Mount Carmel School.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-001

ROUTE 31, CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-B FEDERAL AID PROJECT NUMBER CM-NH-0031 (015)
RE-BID PACKAGE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, Phase II-B**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available on or after **December 4, 2012** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

A **mandatory** Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for **December 21, 2012 9:00 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building, Saipan. After the pre-bid there will be a site visit for Route 31, Phase II-B. DPW encourages prospective bidders to see the existing condition and the complexity of the proposed project. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 9, 2013** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each of the addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-001"**. For bidder within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), **January 14, 2013**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), **January 14, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 14, 2013**, and must be received no later than **January 24, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on **January 29, 2013**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on **January 17, 2013**.

A bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (CNMI Department of Commerce), as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a Current License from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

The contractor submitting an unacceptable payment of performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Compliance with Local and Federal Laws and Other Certifications:

1. Bids shall include a certification from the contractor's principal certifying that the contractor is in compliance of all applicable Local and Federal Laws and that all work performed in accordance with said bid shall be in compliance with Local and Federal Laws.
2. Sub-contractors must also comply with item 1 of this section.
3. Bids shall also include a certification from the contractor's principal certifying that the contractor shall comply with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Buy American Provision (ARRA Title XVI, Section 1605) for all materials purchased utilizing ARRA funds.


Performance time for completion of this project is three hundred days (300) working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the American Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the FHWA Federal aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-GOV-007
Roof Repair & Coating for Six Government Buildings
In Capitol Hill

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair & Coating for Six Government Buildings in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on December 13, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the CIP Office. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on December 20, 2012 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB13-GOV-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 2, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 2, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 2, 2013 and must be received no later than January 9, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 9, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, on January 2, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The security company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars (\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Three student firms vie for Company of the Year title

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three student companies will vie for the Company of the Year title of the CNMI Junior Achievement Company Program, which is scheduled to hold its awards banquet on Jan. 19, 2013.

Kagman High School's "Espress It!", Marianas High School's "FUERTE VICI," and Saipan Southern High School's "Coco-Yo Company" will showcase their products or services tomorrow night at the Garapan Street Market.

JA is a worldwide non-profit organization that provides educational programs for youth to gain the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices.

The program was revived in the CNMI last January through collaboration of the Public School System, Junior Achieve-

ment of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Carline Sablan, JA Company Program coordinator, said yesterday that the student companies have been meeting weekly since September to decide on company names, design, produce, and market products and/or services, account for expenses and revenues, manage human resources, create business plans, and learn other practical business skills after school.

The student companies are led by their student management team and advised by volunteers from local businesses. Kagman High School is advised by Bank of Hawaii and YCO Corp., the Marianas High School by the Rotary Club of Saipan and *Marianas Variety*, and Saipan Southern High School by the CNMI Department of Commerce, the CNMI Small Business Development Center, and IP&E.

Besides selling their products, the student companies will be

evaluated on their sales skills, product, business knowledge, and marketing, added Sablan who is an economic development analyst at CDA.

"The public is encouraged to come out and support our young entrepreneurs and this positive initiative," she said.

Saipan Southern High School's Kai Kai Company bested four other teams when they won major awards, including the Company of the Year title, during the JA Company Program awarding ceremony last April, the first since the program's revival.

The company's chief executive officer, Zachary Sablan, was also hailed President of the Year after demonstrating excellent leadership and capability in the actual handling of an enterprise.

For more information, contact CDA's Sablan at 234-6245 ext. 314 or econ-dev@cda.gov.mp, or CNMI PSS' Frances Ulloa at 237-3002 or frances.ulloa@cnmipss.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRIEF WRITING TIPS

Members of the CNMI Bar Association listen to a presentation by four law clerks from the NMI Judiciary regarding brief-writing tips on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012. The NMI Bar Association hosted the law clerks at its monthly luncheon meeting and provided Continuing Legal Education credit to the attorneys who attended.

CUC chief finance officer awarded CGMA designation

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chief financial officer Charles Warren was recently awarded the Chartered Global Management Accountant, or CGMA, designation from the American Institute of CPAs and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

The CGMA designation recognizes professionals who have a deep understanding of finance and have expanded their business skills through experience as management accountants to help drive better business decisions.

"I am honored to receive the CGMA designation, and I am delighted that the accounting profession recognizes the value that management accountants bring to organizations," Warren said.

He said this designation represents a commitment to advanced education, ethics and professional development that are critical to career success.

Warren has spent over three decades in financial and management accounting for a diverse range of companies ranging from small entrepreneurial ventures to Fortune 50 publically held corporations. He joined CUC about three years ago.

AICPA and CIMA, two of the world's most prestigious accounting bodies, established the Chartered Global Management Accountant designation in January 2012 to elevate the profession of management accounting. The designation recognizes the most talented and committed management accountants with the discipline and skill to drive sustainable business success.

To qualify for the CGMA in the U.S., finance professionals must have trained as a CPA, passing the Uniform CPA Examination and meeting educational requirements in their states.

Garapan, Koblerville to join Parade of Books 2013

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two public elementary schools have already confirmed participation in Rotary Club of Saipan's Parade of Books 2013.

Garapan and Koblerville elementary schools have registered for the event slated for April 13, 2013, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, Rotarian Reina Camacho said at the club meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday.

Parade of Books is an annual competition that encourages literacy and creativity in a fun and innovative way. The contest

allows participating schools to create a performance reflecting a book they read and a chance to win cash prizes.

Performances should be presented on stage for at least 3 minutes and no more than 5 minutes, as there will be deduction for participants who will exceed the maximum allowable time.

Only participating school children will be allowed to perform. They should not have elaborate face makeup but should be able to put on their own costumes. Comic book superheroes or licensed characters are also not allowed.

Camacho, coordinator of next year's event, said a meeting is scheduled for coordinators and representatives of schools interested in taking part in the upcoming competition.


She encouraged other elementary schools to register for Parade of Books 2013. Cash prizes up for grabs are \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place, \$500 for third place, \$300 for fourth place, \$200 for fifth place, and \$100 as participation prize.

"The earlier they register, the earlier they can prepare for the contest," said Camacho, adding that the deadline to submit registration forms is on March 1, 2013.

To register in the Parade of Books 2013, email reinacamacho@gmail.com.




Camacho



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Board of Parole

P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbp@pticom.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Executive Meeting

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that an **Executive Meeting** is scheduled for **December 12, 2012, (Wednesday)** beginning at **9:00 A.M.**, at the **Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room, Susupe, Saipan.**


The following items are included in the agenda:

- I. Preliminary Matters**
 - A) Call to order
 - B) Roll Call
 - C) Presence of Quorum
 - D) Welcome Board Members & New Board Member
- II. Consent Items**
 - A) Review / Adoption of Agenda
- III. New Business**
 - (A) Presentation Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
- IV. Old Business**
 - A) Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
 - B) Commonwealth Constitution: Article III Re: Section 9: Executive Functions
 - (C) Reprieves, Commutations and Pardons
- V. Miscellaneous**
 - A) Other Matters
- VI. Adjournment**

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman


Date: 11/13/2012



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Board of Parole

P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbp@pticom.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Parole Hearing

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and LT. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **December 12, 2012, (Wednesday)** beginning at **1:30 P.M.**, and to continue on **December 13, 2012, at 9:00 A.M.** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room, Susupe, Saipan.**

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to Order 2. Welcome Board Members 3. Roll Call 4. Presence of Quorum II. Consent Items <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adoption of Agenda III. Parole Application <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kelani Vincent Pangelinan 2. John W. Rasiang 3. Cheroleen Aurellio Ray 4. Geoffrey S. Ada 5. MD: AKTAR HOSSAIN IV. Re-Application <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sanito Estrera 2. Roland Nick H. Muna 3. Alston Santos V. Revocation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shawn Cabrera Appleby VI. Miscellaneous Other Matters <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dewayne Sibetang Re: Board Decision VII. Adjournment	BOP No. 12-010 12-011 12-012 12-013 12-014 BOP No. 12-RA-003 12-RA-004 12-RA-005 BOP No. 10-010 BOP No. 05-019	Criminal Case No. 10-0057E 11-0194A 11-0251(E) 11-0024 03-0398A Criminal Case No. 08-0106B 10-0184 10-170D Criminal Case No. 96-319 Criminal Case No. 00-164
---	---	---

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

Date: 11/13/2012

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

- A. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of November 15, 2012 minutes
 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)
- B. Public Hearings**
 1. None
- C. Communications / Reports**
- D. Old Business.**
 1. Updates on the following pending legislations:
 - A. Saipan Zoning Law of 2012
 - B. Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Businesses (Pokers)
- E. New Business**
 1. Office operations report
- F. Executive (Closed) Session**
- G. Miscellaneous:** Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

USCIS develops tools to help foreign entrepreneurs

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas marked a significant milestone for the USCIS Entrepreneurs in Residence initiative by recently launching an online resource center at the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship in Cambridge, Mass. The resource center, *Entrepreneur Pathways*, provides entrepreneurs who seek to start a business in the United States an intuitive way to navigate the immigration process.

"Through our innovative Entrepreneurs in Residence initiative, we are working to realize our current immigration system's full potential to attract and retain startup enterprises that promote innovation and spur

job creation in America," said Mayorkas. "The first phase has already led to unique improvements in our programs and enabled us to better serve immigrant entrepreneurs."

Launched earlier this year at an Information Summit in Silicon Valley, the EIR initiative draws on industry expertise to strengthen USCIS policies and practices critical to American economic growth. The team comprised startup business experts and USCIS immigration experts working collaboratively over a short period of time to streamline pathways for a range of existing nonimmigrant visa categories often used by entrepreneurs.

"This initiative is so innovative and progressive. It's all

about finding pragmatic solutions," said EIR team member and Vice President of Strategic and Community Development and Chief Ecosystem Builder at SoftLayer Technologies Paul Ford. "USCIS's officers and leadership clearly want to deliver quality services to people who want to invest, work and live in the United States. They have embraced our input and did something with it."

In addition to creating *Entrepreneur Pathways*, the EIR team:

- Developed and deployed a training workshop for USCIS employment-based immigration officers that focuses on startup businesses and the environment for early-stage innovations;
- Trained a team of specialized immigration officers to handle

entrepreneur and startup cases;

- Modified Request for Evidence templates for certain non-immigrant visa categories to incorporate new types of relevant evidence into the adjudicative process; and

- Developed a plan for quarterly engagements with the entrepreneurial community to ensure that USCIS stays current with industry practices.

To sustain the momentum and build on the team's accomplishments, USCIS extended the EIR project through April 2013. Among other things, the team will expand its focus to immigrant visa pathways that may enable foreign entrepreneurs to start a business in the United States within current immigration law. (USCIS)

NMC Nursing spring 2013 cohort application now available

Students who are interested in pursuing a career in nursing can apply to become part of the Northern Marianas College Nursing Department's newest cohort in the spring 2013 semester. Those who meet the program's requirements can submit their application before Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013.

The NMC Nursing Department will be selecting students to begin taking nursing courses in the spring 2013 semester based on the following criteria: cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; completion of all nursing and general education prerequisites with a grade of "C" or higher; the ability to understand,

speak, and write in English; and passage of the interview with the department.

The number of students selected will also depend on the number of faculty available to teach the class. At this time, the class size will be limited to 30 students. If there is not enough space for all applicants,

there may be a waiting list of applicants in the event that a selected student declines to join the program. The next cohort will be selected for the spring 2014 semester.

Applications are available for pick-up at the NMC Nursing Department in Building C at the NMC As Terlje campus (Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm), or may be downloaded at www.nmcnet.edu.

For more information, contact the NMC Nursing Department at 234-5498 Ext. 1616/1618 or visit www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Pesticide importation, ID workshops

The Division of Environmental Quality will be conducting a workshop on Saipan and Rota on how to recognize misbranded pesticide and pesticide devices.

The primary targets for this workshop are employees of CNMI Customs, CNMI Quarantine, and the Bureau of Environmental Health. These agencies are crucial to the enforcement of pesticide regulations. Thus it is critical that DEQ provide education to Customs, Quarantine and BEH to order to prevent the entry of illegal in our islands and help in achieving compliance.

On Saipan, the workshop will be held on Dec. 11 and 12, from 8:30am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 4:30pm. On Rota, it will be held on Dec 13 from 8:30am to 11:30am.

Workshop agenda includes but is not limited to: overview of regulations (importation, authority & scope, detainment); understanding labels & recognizing signs for illegal pesticides & devices; and the screening process.

For information or questions about the workshop or the regulations, send an email to reincamacho@deq.gov.mp or call 664-8500/12. (DEQ)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 6, 2000

CPA eyes establishment of emergency fund

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is seeking to establish an Operation Emergency Fund with an initial deposit of about \$312,000 to finance contingency needs at both the airport and seaport divisions. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios told an interview that CPA management is initially requesting for \$249,880 in supplemental funds for the airport, and an additional \$62,000 for emergency needs at the harbor. Mr. Palacios said the idea behind the proposed creation of an Operation Emergency Fund is to make the money available whenever the immediate need arises, without necessarily calling the Board of Directors for a meeting which may be time-consuming.

Home care provider seeks govt support

Marianas Health Services, a locally-owned home care-giving agency, organized yesterday a dialogue between Legislature, health, and government officials in efforts to draw community support and promote public awareness on the concept of "home care" as an equally vital aspect of health care. Guam-based MHS vice president and clinical director Ruth Gurusamy appealed to local leaders not to rule out home care in the Legislature's health care policy making discussions and decisions, citing CNMI's increasing need for the services. "What we would like is support from our policy makers in the CNMI, that anytime health care services are discussed, please consider home care as part of it. When you make decisions about health care access for Commonwealth residents, please consider home care as an option."

Dec. 6, 2001

Queens' referral claims balloon to \$.5M

The money owed by the CNMI government's insurance arm to Hawaii-based Queens Medical Center has ballooned to an estimated half-a-million dollars, eliciting a howl of protest from the center. Based on documents obtained by Saipan Tribune, medical claims owed by Group Health and Life Insurance Co. to the Queens Medical Center covering the period from 2000 to 2001 have now reached nearly \$500,000. Queens said the owed amount has grown because Group Health has failed to live up to its promise to pay the center a fixed amount that has previously been agreed upon between the two parties.

CDC to help in NMI anthrax testing

Public Health Medical Director Richard Brostrom yesterday said the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is finding ways to expedite testing suspicious anthrax substances in the Commonwealth. Brostrom made the statement after visiting the head office of the CDC, an agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services, in Atlanta, Georgia last week. "They are helping us find a better way to submit samples to a level B laboratory so that we can get a faster turn around time," Brostrom said. But he said upgrading the Commonwealth's laboratory capabilities is still uncertain at the moment.

Dec. 6, 2002

Fake bomb caller found guilty

A jury handed down yesterday a guilty verdict on the man who allegedly made two bomb threat calls to government agencies, including the Superior Court, last year. The 12-man jury at the federal court found Francisco Demapan Dela Cruz guilty of making threats by telephone last November 14, 2001, a federal offense. U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson, citing a provision of the United States Code, said it is a federal crime "for anyone to use a telephone to willfully communicate any threat, or maliciously convey false information about an attempt or alleged attempt to unlawfully damage or destroy any building by means of an explosive." Evidence showed that Dela Cruz made two phone calls on that day: to the Superior Court's clerk's office and to the Emergency Management Office, according to U.S. Attorney Frederick A. Black.

DPH to extend manpower agencies' contracts again

The Department of Public Health will extend for another 60 days its contracts with three staffing agencies pending the resolution of bidding protests. DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider said yesterday that the Procurement and Supply Office made the recommendation following the failure of the Office of the Public Auditor to issue a decision on the protests. Hofschneider said he finds the P&S' recommendation appropriate. "I think I'll have to listen to them."



PRIZE WINNER

Eighth grader Thia Liana King of Tinian Jr./Sr. High, left, is presented a quiz prize by Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Frank Tudela during the presentation of Marianas Tourism Education Council at the school on Nov. 9, 2012.

MVA

CULTURAL CALENDAR

■ **DEC. 7, 8, 9:** Friends of the Arts' Christmas play *A Visit from Saint Nicholas* or *'Twas the Night before Christmas*, performed on Friday, Dec. 7; Saturday, Dec. 8; and Sunday, Dec. 9. Starting times will be 7pm on Friday and Saturday and 3pm on Sunday. Ticket prices: Adult FOA member, \$6; adult not-FOA member, \$8; student, \$4 (Due to the lowered cost of the ticket, FOA season ticket holders can also bring one additional guest per season ticket without cost)

On Sunday, Dec. 8, entrance can be purchased by the donation of cash or canned foods to the Salvation Army, or by the

purchase of a ticket. Food and money donations to the Salvation Army will be accepted for each performance. The Friends of the Arts will match the total cash donations.

■ **DEC. 11:** Free concert at the American Memorial Park (5pm-8 pm) featuring four different Saipan Southern Manta Band groups, followed by the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, and then by the United States Air Force Band out of Elmendorf AB in Alaska. Entrance fee is \$0.

■ **DEC. 19:** Annual Christmas show at Saipan Southern High School's campus and will feature four concert bands

and choir. Admission is free! Weather permitting, it will be a concert under the stars! If it rains, it will be staged inside the cafeteria. Starting time is 6:30pm.

■ **DEC. 20:** Saipan Pacific Winds will be performing at the SDA Center in Chalan Laulau next to the SDA Clinic. Free admissions. The Saipan Pacific Winds has done this concert every December for the past 19 years. Tunes include Alfred Reed's *Russian Christmas Music*, Mannheim Steamroller's *Carol of the Bells*, selections from *The Nutcracker*, and many more! Starting time is 7pm.

CNMI gets \$80.8K for emergency food, shelter programs

The CNMI has been chosen to receive \$80,795 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs here in the Commonwealth.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches

of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide.

The NMI Local Board is charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A Local Board made up of social services organizations will determine how the funds awarded to NMI are to be distributed

among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal

funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary

board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

The local CNMI Board has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with Karidat, Salvation Army, and Guma Esperanza. These

agencies were responsible for providing thousands of meals and nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact 234-3459 for an application. The deadline for applications is Dec. 15. **(PR)**

Christmas in the Marianas Parade on Dec. 8

The Marianas Visitors Authority and its tourism partners are serving up a full month of Christmas in the Marianas this year with holiday activities slated for every Saturday throughout December. Each Saturday, the Christmas in the Marianas festival will open at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall at 5pm, with live entertainment from 7pm to 9pm.

This Saturday, Dec. 8, spectators are invited to the Christmas in the Marianas Parade featuring school floats and costumed revelers in downtown Garapan. The parade will be held from the Carolinian Utt to Coral Tree Ave. beginning at 6pm. Floats will be viewable along Coral Tree Ave. for the duration of the evening. Winners of the parade and Christmas Tree Decoration Contest will also be awarded.

Sounds of the season will resound on Dec. 15 with the high-energy school Christmas

Caroling Contest beginning at 6pm at Paseo de Marianas. For those wanting to work off some extra calories gained by holiday eating, the Marianas Walking Association will hold its 5K Christmas in the Marianas Health Walk beginning at 5pm at Paseo de Marianas that day as well.

On Dec. 22 the 4th Annual Mochituki Festival, a Japanese rice festival, will be celebrated, inclusive of Japanese cultural activities at Paseo de Marianas. The evening will feature performers from Okinawa and a karate exhibition.

Revelers young and old are invited to the Welcome to the New Year celebration on Dec. 29 with dance and music entertainment from 6pm to 9pm.

"This year we are presenting the biggest and brightest Christmas in the Marianas as a collaborative effort of the MVA, Friends of the Paseo de

Marianas, Marianas Walking Association, and Team PDI," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We hope to see many families come and enjoy these free events every Saturday, and most especially, share our warm island hospitality with visitors who are in our islands this holiday season."

Food and drinks will be sold by Country House, Moby Dick, Jhem's, Sierra's Pearl Shake, Okadaya, E'sy Kitchen, Hula Girl, Lyn's BBQ, Furusato, and Kinpachi Restaurant. Games, raffles, face painting, and other activities will also be held.

Festivities kicked off last Saturday, Dec. 1, with the Christmas Tree Decoration Contest at Paseo de Marianas, featuring trees decorated with recycled material by local school children, and the lighting of the Paseo de Marianas Christmas Tree. **(MVA)**

NMC Business Department info session on Dec. 12

Working professionals looking to advance their career and those who are interested in earning a college degree in business are encouraged to attend the free Northern Marianas College Business Department information session on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1.

At the information session, attendees will learn about the NMC Business Department's expanded course offerings in different areas of business including management, accounting, marketing, or computer applications.

With more evening, weekend, and online courses, the Business Department has also

been increasing the flexibility of its class to help working professionals maintain a full-time student status so that they can qualify for additional financial aid.

Attendance at the Business Department info session qualifies participants to receive a waiver of the admission application fee and the placement test fee (a savings of up to \$75) for the upcoming spring 2013 semester.

The Northern Marianas College offers an Associate in Arts Degree in Business; an Associate in Applied Science in Hospitality Management; and an Associate in Applied Science in Business Administration, with

emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications.

Furthermore, NMC offers a Bachelor of Science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), and associate degrees in liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, and criminal justice. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the NMC Business Department information session, visit www.nmcnet.edu or email chavelg@nmcnet.edu. **(NMC)**

MITA Travel invites qualified US workers to apply for the following position:

Customer Service Representative: (2 positions) Associates Degree and two years work experience as a customer service representative in sales and money services business environment OR HS/GED and four years related work experience; police clearance required; process sales, payments and MSB transactions; receive customers' calls & answer queries; maintain knowledge of new services, current promotions, and policies; assist in development and implementation of promotions; other duties as required by the company. Deadline 12/17/12.

Interested applicants email resumes@mita-travel.com or inquire within for application requirements.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-JUDICIARY-042**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 03, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSULTANT SERVICES IN THE AREAS OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE"

INTERESTED CONSULTANTS MUST ACQUIRE COMPLETE RFP INFORMATION FORM MS. TRACY M. GUERRERO, DIRECTOR OF COURTS, P.O. BOX 502165, SAIPAN, MP 96950, TELEPHONE NO. (670) 236-8807, OR EMAIL AT tracyguerrero@justice.gov.mp TO OBTAIN DETAILS REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS RFP.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ CHIEF JUSTICE ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ MS. TRACY M. GUERRERO
DIRECTOR OF COURTS

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-CHC-040**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY03, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO PROVIDE EVALUATION SERVICES FOR THE DPH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION UNIT-STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK STATE INCENTIVE GRANT, PROJECT BRABU PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ ROXANNE DIAZ
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-CHC-039

Submission/Opening Date: December 19, 2012 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"Lease of a Class "E" Vehicle (Four-Door Sedan) for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – Immunization Program-Rota"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
CEO – Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

/s/ Roxanne Diaz
Public Health Services Director

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-DPL-006

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2012 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE PROPOSER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A)-(D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ RAMON S. SALAS
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-DPW/ED-035

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 27, 2012 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT ENERGY STAR RATED COMPACT FLORESCENT LAMS (CFL's) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THE COMPLETE BID PACKAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CNMI ENERGY DIVISION OFFICE (EECBG), LOCATED AT SPRINGS PLAZA DEVELOPMENT BUILDING ALONG CHALAN PALE ARNOLD HIGHWAY, SAIPAN OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO cdfs@recovery.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **DECEMBER 11, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M.**, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, GUALO RAI COMMERCIAL BUILDING.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA E-MAIL TO cdfs@recovery.gov.mp NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS **DECEMBER 14, 2012**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-CHC-036 (A-D)

Submission/Opening Date: December 18, 2012 Time: 10:30 a.m.

"Purchase of Ten (10) Desktop Computers, Two (2) Laptop Computers, Ten (10) Printers and Two (2) Scanners for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – Immunization program"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
CEO – Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

/s/ Roxanne Diaz
Public Health Services Director

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-CHC-037

Submission/Opening Date: December 19, 2012 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"Lease of a Class "E" Vehicle (Four-Door Sedan) for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – Immunization Program"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
CEO – Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

/s/ Roxanne Diaz
Public Health Services Director

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-CHC-038

Submission/Opening Date: December 19, 2012 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"Lease of a Class "E" Vehicle (Four-Door Sedan) for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – Immunization Program-Tinian"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
CEO – Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

/s/ Roxanne Diaz
Public Health Services Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 285

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

UN disability rights treaty deserves Senate ratification

Even when the United Nations sets out to do the right thing, it can count on a skeptical response in the U.S. That's happening now, as the Senate prepares to consider a U.N. treaty upholding the rights of people with disabilities.

The treaty is based on existing U.S. law. Its advocates argue convincingly that nothing in the U.S. would need to change as a result of the treaty's adoption. It would not affect the federal budget in any significant way. It would not raise costs in schools or workplaces.

It would, however, bring about significant changes abroad. The treaty, already ratified by more than 100 nations, seeks to establish international standards based on practices pioneered in the U.S. It provides a framework for countries to enact and enforce legislation that enables those with disabilities to live more independently, with greater dignity.

Ratifying this treaty would show that the U.S. remains committed to lead on access for the disabled. The U.S. has been leading since Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. Though there was great concern at the time about the cost of implementing the ADA, the law has helped to establish that providing access to the disabled is good for society ... and good for commerce. More than 50 million Americans, and an estimated 10 percent of the world population, live with disabilities.

The wheelchair ramps, sidewalk cutouts and handicapped parking that have become part of the landscape in the U.S. are practically unknown in many parts of the world. Disabled Americans traveling overseas often encounter severe obstacles. In developing countries, children with disabilities go without even simple accommodations.

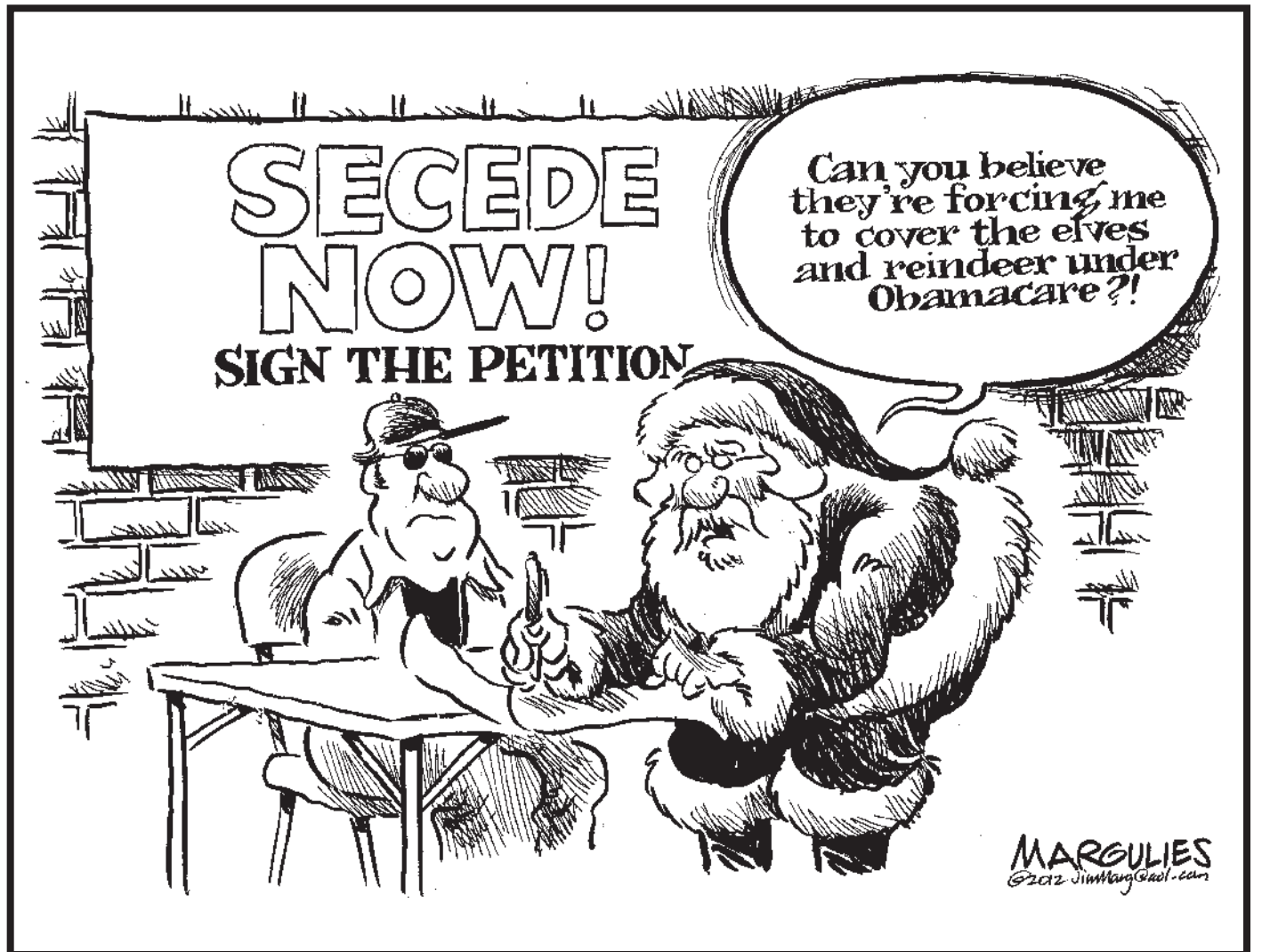
The U.N. treaty was negotiated under President George W. Bush and signed by President Barack Obama. It requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate to be ratified. That vote is expected to come Tuesday. It has substantial Democratic support and the backing of some prominent Republicans, such as Sen. John McCain and former Sen. Bob Dole.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce favors the treaty, partly because its members already have invested in compliance with the ADA. The treaty would help level the playing field with companies operating abroad. It also would open new markets to American businesses that have developed accessibility products and technologies.

But Senate approval is no sure thing. Former Sen. Rick Santorum has emerged as the most vocal opponent.

The chief concern raised by opponents is that the treaty could undermine U.S. sovereignty by subjecting this nation's practices to scrutiny and to new international standards. The risk of such meddling is extraordinarily low. The potential to improve the lives of people with disabilities in other nations around the world is quite high. The U.S. should sign on. Senators, strike a blow for disability rights from Argentina to Zambia: Vote "yes" on the U.N. treaty.

©2012 Chicago Tribune



Here I stand

The oft-quoted, "Here I stand, I can do no other," is attributed to the German monk Martin Luther when asked to recant his Wittenberg 95-thesis at the imperial Diet of Worms. The phrase now considered an editorial insertion is nevertheless "faithful" to the religious reforms of the 1500.

We do not draw a dividing line in our class context, though we start our 16-week journey with an exposition of three perspectives, used thoroughly and throughout the whole term of our Oral English classes. (We taught the same using a different set of metaphors on Saipan not too long ago.)

"Life, real life, is the subject of what we can talk about in oral English," we begin. "Of this life, we view it from three perspectives." We then draw a couple of two-inch-wide circles, two feet apart, on the board.

The first circle is the microscopic perspective. In individual lives, it is the small picture. It begins at the hour of conception when 200 million sperms attempt to fertilize an egg. One sperm makes it and, given the odds, is clearly a winner. On the other hand, the egg does not just allow the first arrival to penetrate her crust. An element of free choice is involved. Two cells then join to create in a nine-month period a very sophisticated bio-organism complete with digestive and respiratory systems, muscle and skeletal structures, a neural nexus, and a reproductive capability. Not yet born, it is already a winsome, free, and creative marvel. One is some body!

The second circle is the telescopic perspective. On the level of an individual student's life, we telescope from one among 20K population at the university, a unit out of 8 million in Shenyang, a creature out of 1.395 billion in China, and a human being among more than 7 billion in the planet. The planet is but the third rock from the sun, which is a minor star in the Milky Way, careening in a space of a billion universes, our own speculated to be 14 billion years old. We are not even a pixel in the HDTV of life! One is, quite literally, a no body nobody!

By then, the part of the class who tends to be apologetic about their lives and their humble beginnings hear that it is their birthright to be somebody. On the other hand, those who are prone to air balloon their somebody-ness might hear the emptiness of their valued significance. In the big picture, we are just a bunch of nobodies.

By this time, one may feel a silent awe-filled and awe-some current in the air.

Stealthily, we return to our board work and mark an X on the center, equidistant to the two circles. There is a third perspective, we declare. This one knows itself not absolutely a somebody, nor eternally a nobody. It knows itself to be temporal but is full of moments, historical but not altogether fleeting. It knows itself as one, unique, unrepeatable gift of life into human history. There has never been like it before, and there will never be another one like it ever again.

With all the drama I can muster, I solemnly declare: "I am this

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



one," pointing to the X, and after a long pause, "and so are you!" The invitation to decisional confidence is laid bare.

Letting the last line drop, we draw a large circle around the two small ones with the X in the middle, and add a horizontal "S" intersecting with the X. The result is a horizontal taiji, the figure of the yin-yang on the board. We are in China. The taiji was banned as a religious symbol in 1949, surreptitiously revived as a cultural oddity in the '80s.

"A group of people," we continue, "have chosen to call themselves the people of the middle, Zhongguoren." We translate Zhongguoren as "Chinese" in English, from Zhongguo, aka "China", the term the Persians called the Qin in the Silk Road, "Sina" by Rome, "Chine" to Marco Polo, and "China" by England. While adopting the appellation of "China" in English, in Zhongwen and Putunghua, Chinese call themselves privately and internally in China as Zhongguoren, the people of the middle.

Though limited in their English, by now, through the board drawings and our body language, the members of our audience catches on to something significantly personal and meaningful being uttered. We conclude:

"Face" is important in China. The face you wear so far shall be left outside the door of the classroom door. It will still be there when you leave the class. You can decide if you wish to continue wearing it.

The language you are about to start using insists on getting as close to the "real" as possible. It will want you to objectively narrate what you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. It will encourage you to reflect and express your feelings, and articulate and interpret your thoughts. It will ask that you rehearse in terms understandable to your peers the direction, plans, decisions of your life. In short, we shall speak with authority on what is real and authentic to us. That created face is what we want to see and hear. T'is temporal, t'is historical. That is the face we want to create in Oral English.

By then, the students realize they had not come to a standard academic class. Thus commences a 16-week series of encounters, a journey of choice and creativity in eight classes at Shenyang Aerospace University.

It is, indeed, a season to be jolly. With the global gaze of human academe, and the cosmic grace of the spheres, I encounter students who call themselves Zhongguoren, and with them, I say: here we stand! In English! My Muslim colleague down the hall says, Amen!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Israel-Hamas could force rethink of 'Pacific pivot'

The recent hostilities between Israel and Hamas are a chance for the United States to think strategically. Or, better yet, rethink—specifically the Obama administration's "pivot to the Pacific."

The challenge was issued—"respectfully but forcefully"—by Paul McHale, who has been a Democratic congressman from Pennsylvania (1993-99) and an assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense (2003-09), and is a retired Marine colonel whose most recent deployment was to Afghanistan in 2007.

At a recent gathering of defense experts in Colorado Springs, Colo., sponsored by the Heritage Foundation, McHale made clear that President Obama "should be commended for recognizing that for too many years our country has paid too little attention to the Pacific region."

The mistake the administration made, McHale says, was grounding the pivot in its military strategy, as revealed in the document released in January, "Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for the 21st Century Defense."

"The administration's strategy fails because it does not distinguish between threat and opportunity," McHale said. "Make no mistake, the United States has an enormous diplomatic interest in Southeast Asia and along the Pacific Rim. ... In terms of economic and trade opportunities, the United States confronts a region of tremendous potential. And the intelligence challenges, particularly as they relate to China's evolving military intent and operational capability, are vital to our national security."

"But, from a U.S. military perspective, the risk of war in the Pacific is far lower than the risk of our involvement in a war at multiple foreseeable locations throughout the greater Mideast and Southwest Asia."

Had the "pivot" been done through the Departments of State or Commerce, or official visits, such as the president's recent trip to Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar, McHale said, "I would...without reservation, applaud such an initiative."

By pivoting as part of the nation's long-term military strategy, though, the administration not only downplays the potential for conflict in Central Command, the area from Egypt to Afghanistan, but it signals to the defense community that planning and procurement of new weapons systems must focus on the Pacific Rim.

"Does it make sense for the United States Army to prepare for a protracted land war against China?" McHale asks. "Should the Army really be focused on North Korea while paying insufficient attention to Iran? And if a post-2014 civil war in Afghanistan spills over the Durand Line and threatens the stability of Pakistan's government, are there any issues in Myanmar that trump the possible acquisition of nuclear weapons by the Taliban?"

"Our military strategy should not be a rhetorical and largely symbolic expression of our renewed regional interest in the Pacific," McHale said. "Our military strategy must provide the clear guidance from the president and secretary of defense that allows our military commanders to realistically plan for the most important and likely war-fighting contingencies."

By KEVIN FERRIS
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Kevin Ferris is assistant editor of the Editorial Page of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at kf@phillynews.com.



Engage the Pacific, he stressed, but the focus of the nation's military strategy must be on the Centcom area of operations, which McHale described as "an arc of instability and violence, rationalized by Islamic fundamentalism and nurtured by historic tribal rivalries."

The hostilities then going on between Israel and Hamas underscored the urgency.

"This is the moment to consider the ramifications associated with Iran's ongoing quest for nuclear weapons, ramifications of profound importance, for Israel's peace, peace throughout the Middle East region, and even the peace and security of the global community, most especially the United States," McHale said.

"As conventional Iranian rockets now fall on Israel, is it reasonable to expect that Israel can or will tolerate an Iranian nuclear capability?" he asked. "Is it reasonable to assume that the persistent Iranian threat to regional and world peace will go away anytime soon?"

Why the poor favor the Democrats

By ZOLTAN HAJNAL AND JEREMY D. HOROWITZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Speaking to donors after the election, Mitt Romney attributed his loss to President Obama to the administration's strategy of "giving a lot of stuff" to blacks and Latinos, citing in particular "free health care" and "amnesty for the children of illegals." But data show a more plausible explanation: Black, Latino and Asian-American voters, who overwhelmingly voted for Obama, were simply evaluating the long-term record of each party.

The data we analyzed show unequivocally that minorities fare better under Democratic administrations than under Republican ones. Census data tracking annual changes in income, poverty and unemployment over the last five decades tell a striking story about the relationship between the president's party and minority well-being.

Under Democratic presidents, the incomes of black families grew by an average of \$895 a year, but only by \$142 a year under Republicans. Across 26 years of Democratic leadership, unemployment among blacks declined by 7.9 percent; under 28 years of Republican presidencies, the rate increased by a net of 13.7 percent. Similarly, the black poverty rate fell by 23.6 percent under Democratic presidents and rose by 3 percent under Republicans.

The results for Latinos and Asians, though based on fewer years

of data, show the same pattern. For example, Latino incomes grew an average of \$627 a year under Democrats and fell by \$197 a year under Republicans. The data similarly show that the living standards of Asian Americans have improved under Democrats and stagnated under Republicans.

More important, these gains do not come at the expense of whites. On average, white incomes have similarly grown, and white joblessness and poverty have likewise declined, under Democratic administrations. These numbers show that economic condition need not be a zero-sum game pitting races and ethnicities against one another.

Some might argue that Democrats have been lucky enough to preside during more prosperous times or, indeed, have simply benefited from the long-term results of Republican fiscal policies. In three ways, however, the data suggest that this is not the case, and instead point to a real and substantial partisan divergence.

First, even accounting for the overall state of the economy and other longer-term trends in well-being, partisan differences persist. When controlling for inflation and changes in the gross national product, and accounting for other factors such as oil prices and the proportion of adults in the workforce, we find similarly large gains for minorities under Democrats and equally sharp losses under Republicans.

Second, these partisan trends are remarkably consistent. Black incomes grew in 77 percent of the years under Democratic control,

while black poverty and unemployment declined 88 percent and 71 percent, respectively. In sharp contrast, blacks lost more often than not under Republican administrations.

Finally, the longer Democratic administrations are in office, the more they appear to help blacks and other minorities experience economic gains. As Republican presidents stay in office longer, however, the fortunes of minority groups increasingly suffer.

Policy differences between the parties offer many potential explanations for the minority gains. Initiatives intended to boost the incomes and employment of lower-income Americans, such as Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty" or Bill Clinton's expansion of the earned income tax credit, certainly could play a role. So could more racially targeted efforts, such as the Civil Rights Act and initiatives to expand affirmative action in government hiring.

Minorities are becoming an increasingly large segment of the electorate. As the Republican Party begins a process of soul-searching to determine why it has such difficulty making inroads among minority populations, it may want to start by looking at the long-range economic effects of its policies.

Zoltan Hajnal is a professor of political science at UC San Diego; Jeremy D. Horowitz is a UC San Diego political science doctoral student. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

The Obama years could become our 'lost decade'

After five years of lousy economic performance, you would think people would be sick of it by now. Guess not. How else to explain why we're having a big fight over inequality instead of arguing over how to jump-start growth?

There's no denying inequality has increased. Median wages haven't kept up while families in the upper tax brackets have prospered. But even so, getting the economy back on its typical growth path of 3.4 percent a year should be the overriding imperative.

That would do wonders for the immediate problem of too few jobs and too many jobless—not to mention the problem of lagging incomes and insufficient federal revenue.

Sadly, that's not the topic du jour.

Prosperity harbors a contradiction. Rapid economic growth requires a relatively high degree of inequality, which is more tolerable when the pie tends to grow for all.

In hard times, those who succeed and enrich themselves draw more envy and the political left amps up its obsession with punishing the rich—expressed in the form of taxes that impair the economy's potential.

The current inequality obsession has gotten so bad some people think we would be better off running the top tax rate back up to 91 percent, where it was in the 1950s. Those were prosperous times, they say. Businesses were still created. Investment was healthy. And there was less inequality!

The New York Times' Paul Krugman gave this a try in a recent column, with the added notion that we would also be better off—

less inequality!—if organized labor had the same heft it did in the '50s. As a Nobel laureate, he had to know better.

Today, the economy is weak even with relatively low tax rates. Yet Krugman and his fellow travelers say the solution to our woes is a job market dominated by labor monopolies—unions—and a tax rate that gives upper-income investors and business owners virtually no incentive to earn an additional dollar.

Krugman forgot that the 1950s were a unique period in our history. Much of the developed world's industrial capital was incinerated in war and was still being rebuilt. Of course the American economy prospered. How could it not?

Moreover, as James Pethokoukis of the American Enterprise Institute recently pointed out, jobs were plentiful in those years in part because the post-war boom came at a time when the size of the labor force was reduced, not only by a Depression-era birth dearth but the loss of potential workers killed or wounded in war.

Krugman would profit from reading a recent column by his Times colleague, Eduardo Porter. It includes several passages that were amazing to find in The Times.

A sample: The U.S. tax system is "one of the most progressive" in the developed world. It does "more to redistribute resources and reduce inequality" than tax codes in other countries. But progressive taxes "make it hard to raise money" because they "encourage people to reduce their tax liability rather than to increase their pretax income." And: Hitting top earners with high rates "can discourage work and investment."

Porter was arguing for flatter, European-style taxes like the value-

By E. THOMAS MCCLANAHAN
The Kansas City Star

E. Thomas McClanahan is a member of the Kansas City Star editorial board. Readers may write to him at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at mcclanahan@kcstar.com.



added tax or a carbon tax—levies few people can avoid, which produce revenue like gangbusters. Porter doesn't think Washington does enough to support low-income families compared with big-government social democracies, which rake in much more revenue.

The European debt crisis, however, highlights the flaws in that model.

It's true we must have more revenue and the Simpson-Bowles plan, once assumed to be a roadmap for the fiscal cliff talks, would have produced more by carving loopholes from the tax code. But it also would have encouraged growth by rolling back the top rates. Forget it: Obama now insists we dispense with the rollback. To heck with growth: He wants to carve out the loopholes and raise the rates.

If he gets his way, we could face four more years of economic anemia—which means we may someday look back on the Obama years as the Japanese look back on their "lost decade."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲88 ▼80

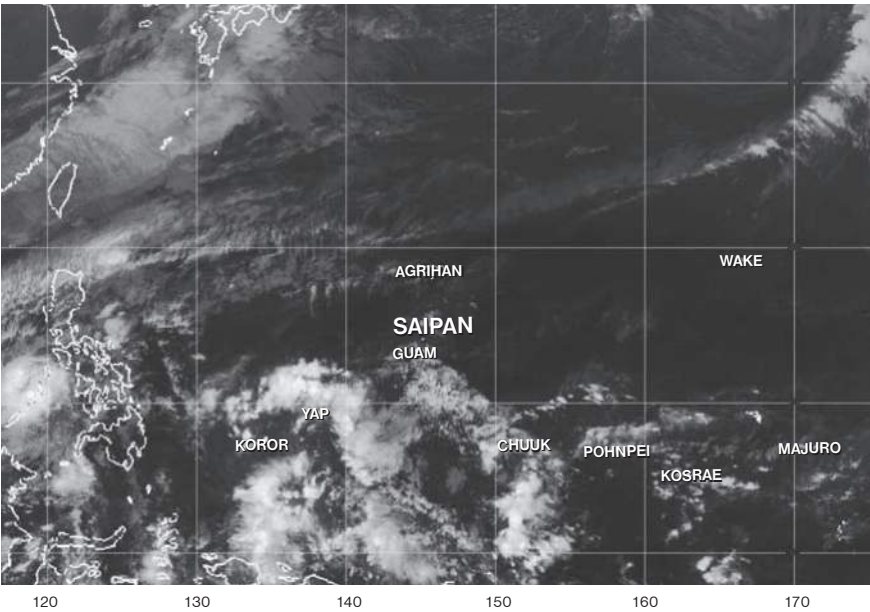
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64 ▼62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲31 ▼13
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼62
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼69
London	Showers	▲41 ▼36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼51
Manila	Cloudy	▲87 ▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼56
Miami	Showers	▲78 ▼66
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲42 ▼34
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲49 ▼39
Paris	Showers	▲39 ▼34
Pusan	Showers	▲50 ▼33
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲49 ▼36
Salem	Showers	▲45 ▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼48
Seoul	Snow	▲34 ▼15
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼38
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲46 ▼37

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
1:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:02 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from just northeast of Minami Torishima at 25N155E to 19N140E then continues southwestward as a shear line to beyond 130E at 17N. Low-level convergence ahead of the cold front is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well west of the Marianas within 70 miles of a line from 15N130E to 17N140E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms just west of Chuuk and south of Guam within 130 miles of a line from 11N142E to 6N151E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers over Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 3N157E to 6N168E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Monday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:49 AM
Friday	12:07 AM
Saturday	12:59 AM
Sunday	1:55 AM
Monday	2:53 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3	OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5	MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week	VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Marines prepare to receive arrested landings on Tinian

By SGT. JUSTIN M. PACK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Two M-31 Marine Corps Expeditionary Arresting Gear Systems were installed on Tinian's West Field Dec. 4 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

Eleven expeditionary airfield system technicians with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, worked the past four days to get this vital piece of equipment set up and ready to go.

"A setup usually takes a week, but these Marines really stepped up to the challenge," said Sgt. Fasa Sengphachanh, an Expe-

Bank donates \$25K to Palau supertyphoon relief

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced a \$25,000 contribution to ongoing relief efforts in Palau as a result of the emergency caused by Supertyphoon Bopha.

While the Bank of Guam's Palau branch opened on Tuesday, Dec. 4, to serve the community, hundreds of residents in the north have been made homeless due to flooding that washed away homes and belongings.

Lou Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, board chair and chief executive officer, stated, "Bank of Guam is pleased to announce this contribution to relief efforts, and we challenge all other Guam businesses doing work in Palau to also provide assistance to our island family and friends."

Bank of Guam is also accepting donations at any of its branches. Checks may be made payable to "Palau Bopha Relief Efforts." (**BOG**)

Navy closing Admiral Nimitz Golf Course

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will close the Admiral Chester Nimitz Golf Course for recreational use on Feb. 28, 2013. The golf course has been incurring a significant revenue loss over the past three years and is not considered the best use of tax dollars, particularly in today's challenging fiscal environment.

The site is currently being evaluated for other ongoing and future mission requirements.

Every effort will be made to ensure the current golf course employees are offered employment in other positions within MWR that are compatible with their former duties. The last golfing day will be Feb. 10, 2013. (**Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office**)

ditionary Airfield System crew leader with the squadron. "This is only the second time the

M-31 has ever been used on an airfield made of coral."

The M-31 is made of two



U.S. MARINE CORPS/SGT. JUSTIN M. PACK

U.S. Marines use a jackhammer to place an anchor for an M-31 Marine Corps Expeditionary Arresting Gear System Dec. 2 at Tinian's West Field during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. Marines will place more than 50 anchors for each trailer to make sure it does not move while landing F/A-18 Hornet aircraft at a rate of one every 3-5 minutes.



U.S. MARINE CORPS/SGT. JUSTIN M. PACK

U.S. Marines lay a stick placement template next to an M-31 Marine Corps Expeditionary Arresting Gear System at Tinian's West Field Dec. 2 during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. The template assists the Marines in marking the ground where they will drive in anchors to keep the trailer in place.

trailers and is set in place with more than 50 anchors per trailer. When an aircraft lands and catches the cross deck pendant, the MCEAGS lets the aircraft run-out between 950-1,000 feet, depending on the speed and weight of the aircraft, before it comes to a complete stop, according to Sengphachanh.

The setup started with a surveyor lining up the spot for the arresting gear along the runway. After the trailers were set, Marines laid out stick placement templates and marked spots on the ground near the trailer to place anchors. Next, a soil test was conducted, which mea-

sured the hardness of the ground before the placement of the anchors. The anchors were then inserted into place by a jackhammer and connected to each trailer by a series of turn buckles. After all this was completed, an inspector came to make sure it was up to standards.

"They are writing the books [on setting up arresting gear on coral runways]. A lot of things we determined [during Exercise Geiger Fury] went into their amplifying instructions," said Jay Message, an Expeditionary Airfield Service Unit Representative and M-31 site certifier with Naval Air Systems Com-

mand. "They have been doing great. If this plays out as well as it has been, it will actually be incorporated into their manual as a fixed set of instructions."

The placement of the M-31 is extremely important during this exercise which will integrate MAG-12 into Marine Air Ground Task Force functions with a heavy emphasis on tactical aviation and aviation ground support in order to further develop a distributed, expeditionary capability within the MIRC. Without the M-31 and the Marines working it, there could not be any expeditionary airfield operations on Tinian.



MTEC reaches out to Tinian, Rota students

Students of Tinian Jr./Sr. High listen in on the educational presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council at their school on Nov. 9, 2012.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Tourism Education Council has taken its tourism message to Tinian and Rota this month with educational presentations to students.

MTEC chair Vicky Benavente and Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects

specialist Frank Tudela presented at Tinian Jr./Sr. High on Nov. 9, 2012, engaging students with the importance of tourism, basic facts about Northern Marianas tourists, and opportunities for students to become involved.

"In the past, Tinian has had a

very strong MY WAVE Club. They were especially active in making cultural dance presentations," said Benavente. "MTEC is ready to offer support to get the Club going again, and most importantly, to get students thinking about why they should

get involved with tourism and how it benefits them."

MTEC also presented to over 100 students in grades 3-6 at Sinapalo Elementary School on Nov. 16.

MTEC is providing \$200 support to schools that form a

MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club. Schools interested in started a MY WAVE Club may contact MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. (**MVA**)

Pohnpeian Army engineer helps repair local hospital

A humanitarian assistance team of U.S. Army personnel from Alaska's 6th Engineer Battalion has arrived on Pohnpei to work on much needed major renovations to the Pohnpei State Hospital.

One member of the team is a Micronesian citizen serving in the U. S. military. Private First Class Bo Nedlic, a 2011 graduate of PICS High School, is among the 22 members of the humanitarian assistance team working on repairs at the Pohnpei State Hospital. Prior to his enlistment, he had only traveled to Guam for a couple of months when he was a young boy.

Nedlic joined the Army to try new experiences and began basic training in August 2011.

After basic training, he attended Advanced Individual Training to learn skills necessary to work as an electrician. His older brother is stationed with the Army in Korea.

In January 2012, when Nedlic reported to his first duty station at the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, he was told his unit would soon deploy to Pohnpei. The work on the hospital has been more than just a visit to his home, it has been with a purpose. Helping to improve the condition of the hospital has a real meaning for him. Nedlic has enjoyed his Army experience, and is glad to be able to come home to help people in his home country.



Pohnpei's own Private First Class Bo Nedlic (on ladder) returns to help refurbish the Pohnpei hospital.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, C/2LT Zachery Yamagishi, C/LTC Marjorie Cuervo, Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero, Marianas High School vice principal John Davis, C/CSM Vlademir Del Rosario, C/CPT Jayna Lizama, and C/MAJ Daphne Dela Cruz.

MHS' Dolphin Battalion donates to Karidat

Cadets of the Marianas High School's Dolphin Battalion recently donated over 800 bowl noodles, assorted canned goods, and rice to Karidat as well as a \$60 donation from MHS vice principal John Davis.

Angie Deleon Guerrero, Karidat executive director, personally visited the JROTC building to receive the generous donation.

"The purpose of this donation

was to help the burdened families in celebration of Thanksgiving. This is one way the JROTC program shows its support to the community where our cadets follow the mission statement, 'to motivate young people to be better citizens.' The cadets of the Dolphin Battalion sincerely wish that this donation will help the less fortunate, especially in this giving time of the year," the battalion said in a statement.

The JROTC program has been supporting Karidat for several years "and we are proud to be a part of making a difference in children and families' lives. We would like to wish and thank the staff and management of Karidat for their effort and support towards the community. We would like to also wish the families everywhere, especially those in need, a great and wonderful Thanksgiving." (PR)

Mariner adrift in Pacific rescued

HONOLULU—A distressed mariner, whose 60-foot long sailing vessel was dismantled approximately 85 miles northwest of Palmyra Atoll, has been rescued Tuesday.

James Blackford was rescued by the crew of the motor vessel *Global Explorer*, a vessel registered with the Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System.

Blackford was reportedly in good condition with no medical concerns. His vessel, the Makalii, was left behind and adrift. Watchstanders in Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu will put out an advisory to

mariners informing them of the adrift vessel in the area. The crew of the *Global Explorer* is scheduled to take Blackford to their next port of call in Japan.

The *Global Explorer* crew arrived on scene at approximately 12am Tuesday, but could not conduct the rescue due to severe weather conditions. At approximately 9am they were able to safely conduct the rescue and bring Blackford aboard the *Global Explorer*.

Watchstanders were first notified of Blackford's situation when they received a Personal Locator Beacon alert from the sailing vessel Makalii at 8pm Sunday.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point was launched at 10pm Sunday to locate the vessel after attempts to contact it were unsuccessful.

The aircrew located the dismantled sailboat at 2:30am Monday. Blackford reported the vessel had been taking on water when his vessel was dismantled and later reported the flooding stopped.

The aircrew dropped a radio and a Self-Locating Datum Marker Buoy. It was reported that Blackford had food and water aboard. (USCG)

St. Michael's EMTs attain national registry certification

Since opening its doors in 2008, the goal of St. Michael's Medical Response, the first private ambulance company in the region, is to provide the safest and highest quality ambulance transport service in the CNMI. The company maintains this high standard by ensuring that its employees are trained and certified by nationally recognized training institutions and in accordance to national and industry standards.

All St. Michael's EMTs were trained in California at an institution accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Profession. In addition, Branson Santos, then an SMMR EMT, recently participated in a transition course in Guam where he passed not only the institutional exam but also prepared him to successfully pass the National Registry.

"We are proud to announce that patients and clients have more reasons to feel safe and be assured that they are receiving

the best pre-hospital care whenever they avail of Saint Michael's Medical Response ambulance services," said Francis S. Taimanao, St. Michael's operations chief. "Four of our Emergency Medical Technicians have taken and successfully passed the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician exam—the highest level of certification that any EMT can attain in the United States; it is the gold standard of qualifications."

In addition to the off-island trainings and as part of its quality improvement program, St. Michael medical director Dr. Jerry Allison conducts on-site continuing education and psychomotor evaluation on all of St. Michael's EMTs on a bi-annual basis. A former paramedic himself, Dr. Allison is based in Sacramento, California and licensed to practice medicine in the CNMI.

"At a minimum, all St. Michael's EMTs, drivers, and dispatchers are certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation,

automated external defibrillators, [and] basic life support in accordance with the American Heart Association standard, and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course," explained Derek T. Hocog, director of operations, a Nationally Registered EMT himself.

"We will continue to implement the highest standards of pre-hospital care in our company so our patients and their families can be assured that while in our hands, they are receiving the best care, because we care," said Hocog. "It is not a requirement that our EMT's be nationally registered but because we are dedicated to delivering the best qualified service, our company made a decision to invest in our employees and, more importantly, made an investment in our community."

The four nationally registered St. Michael's employees are Derek T. Hocog, Mike Attao Concepcion, Joseph Torres White, and Branson Jay Santos. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All St. Michael's EMTs were trained in California at an institution accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Profession.

Island Snapshots



TOURISM PARTNERS

Chair Masahiro Yamada, 11th from left, led the Japan Marianas Tourism Club in its semi-annual meeting on Nov. 26, 2012, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. JMTC discussed visitor industry matters, including current and projected tourism performance in the Northern Mariana Islands and a proposed hotel occupancy tax increase. Also pictured are Hotel Association of the NMI chair Nick Nishikawa, seventh from left, Japan Saipan Travel Association president Masanori Takahashi, 10th from left, Marianas Visitors Authority chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, 12th from left, and other tourism industry officials.

MVA



HOMEFRONT SUPPORT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Rick Sanchez and Bryan Pitt of MCV turn over a \$200 check donation to American Red Cross executive director John Hirsh and Geri Willis of Operation Homefront Support on Friday, Nov. 30, 2012, at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.



DENTAL OUTREACH

U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Victor Sablan, 9, opens wide to allow Lt. Cmdr. Michael Flannery to inspect his teeth during his visit to the Tinian Heath Center Dec. 3. The U.S. Navy medical personnel will be on Tinian for the duration of Exercise Forager Fury 2012 to assist with the medical and dental needs of the local community. Sablan's twin sister, Victoria, also received dental care in an adjacent room at the same time. Flannery is a general dentist with 11th Dental Company, 3rd Dental Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Rudeinn Sablan, father of twins Victor and Victoria Sablan, 9, goes over paperwork with Lt. Cmdr. Michael Flannery, right, at the Tinian Health Center Dec. 3. Sablan's children, Victor and Victoria, both received dental care from U.S. Navy dental personnel who will be on Tinian for the duration of Exercise Forager Fury 2012 to assist with the medical and dental needs of the local community.



NEW APPOINTEES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial administers the oath of office to Herman R. De-leon Guerrero, Augustina Kukkun, and Eric Plinske on Nov. 30, 2012. The three will serve on the Civil Service Commission.

TRASH WARRIORS

Individuals in the Photo (Dominic, Athena Jaycee, Rudy Jr., Jude Darence, JoDean Desiree, and Leila) give the thumbs down after finding trash scattered at their favorite beach. Here's their message: "We love our beaches! We don't love trash! Keep our island and our beaches clean!"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WORKING TOGETHER

DPW Roads and Maintenance workers, from left, Rueben Acebo, Loran Pua, and Ike Santos finish repairing the intersection potholes near the Grape Bee Store in Gualo Rai on Middle Road. Dr. Jack Angello, a Gualo Rai resident, donated the cement materials through his "Biba Saipan Foundation," in which he promotes the recovery of our CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Business

Makings of a fiscal deal behind the hot rhetoric

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bluster and hot rhetoric aside, the White House and House Republicans have identified areas of significant overlap that could form the basis for a final agreement after “fiscal cliff” posturing gives way to hard bargaining.

Both sides now concede that tax revenue and reductions in entitlement spending are essential elements of any deal. If the talks succeed, it probably will be because House Speaker John Boehner yields on raising tax rates for top earners and the White House

bends on how to reduce spending on Medicare and accepts some changes in Social Security.

The White House and Boehner kept up the ridicule of each other’s negotiating stances on Tuesday. But beneath the tough words were the possible makings of a deal that could borrow heavily from a near-bargain last year during debt-limit negotiations.

Then, President Barack Obama was willing to reduce cost-of-living increases for Social Security beneficiaries and increase the eligibility

age for Medicare, as Boehner and other top Republicans have demanded. On Tuesday, Obama did not shut the door on Republican ideas on such entitlement programs.

“I’m prepared to make some tough decisions on some of these issues,” Obama said, “but I can’t ask folks who are, you know, middle class seniors who are on Medicare, young people who are trying to get student loans to go to college, I can’t ask them to sacrifice and not ask anything of higher income folks.”



President Barack Obama, flanked by National Governors Association (NGA) Chairman, Delaware Gov. Jack Markell, and NGA Vice Chair, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, meets with the NGA executive committee regarding the fiscal cliff, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2012, in the Roosevelt Room at the White House in Washington.

UK Treasury chief likely to go for growth

LONDON (AP)—Britain’s Treasury chief, George Osborne, is expected to unveil plans to kick-start the U.K.’s moribund economy when he presents updated budget policies to lawmakers on Wednesday.

As well as outlining the state of the coalition government’s finances, Osborne is expected to announce an expansion of gas-fired power plants and a revised program to encourage private investment in public projects, according to news reports based on government briefings.

The new initiatives, Prime

Minister David Cameron said on Tuesday, “will make our country work better.”

The so-called Autumn Statement is one of two big policy announcements Osborne makes during the year—the other being the annual budget in the spring, which tends to focus on taxation.

Analysts on Wednesday will be paying particular attention to what Osborne has to say about his target to have public sector debt as a percentage of the U.K. economy start dropping by 2015-2016.

The Treasury minister originally set that goal in June 2010, but he was working on economic forecasts that have proved to be far off the mark.

At that time, the independent Office for Budget Responsibility predicted that the U.K. economy would be growing by nearly 3 percent a year by now. Instead, it sank into a second recession in the fourth quarter of 2011, and didn’t return to growth until the third quarter of this year. Analysts expect the economy to shrink again in the last three months of the year.

Amazon launches Kindle content service for kids

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is launching a subscription service for children’s games, videos and books aimed at getting more kids to use its Kindle Fire tablet devices.

Amazon.com Inc. plans to announce Wednesday that the Kindle FreeTime Unlimited service will be available in the next few weeks as part of an automatic software update.

Amazon said subscribers will have access to “thousands” of pieces of content, though the company did not give a specific number. Kids will be able to

watch, play and read any of the content available to them as many times as they want. Parents can set time limits, however.

The service, aimed at kids aged 3 to 8, will cost \$4.99 per month for one child. It’ll cost \$2.99 per child for members of Amazon Prime, the company’s premium shipping service. Amazon Prime costs \$79 per year for free shipping of merchandise purchased in the company’s online store.

Family plans for up to six kids will cost \$9.99 per month and \$6.99 for Prime members.

The Kindle already allows for parental controls through its FreeTime service. Parents can set up profiles for up to six children and add time limits to control how long kids can spend reading, watching videos or using the Kindle altogether. With the content subscription service, kids can browse age-appropriate videos, games and books and pick what they want to see. They won’t be shown ads and will be prevented from accessing the Web or social media. Kids also won’t be able to make payments within applications.

Nation

FBI: Alaska barista assaulted, dismembered

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A man who died in an apparent suicide this week in an Alaska jail after confessing to a string of killings across the country had sexually assaulted and strangled an Anchorage barista the day after he abducted her, then left her body in a shed while he went on a two-week cruise, the FBI said Tuesday.

In the most detailed account yet of what happened to Samantha Koenig, who disappeared in February, authorities said Israel Keyes told them he strangled the 18-year-old, then left her body in a shed outside his Anchorage house until he returned from his cruise from New Orleans.

Once home, Keyes posed Koenig’s body to make it appear she was still alive and took a Polaroid photo of her tied up, along with a newspaper dated Feb. 13—12 days after the abduction from a coffee stand. He later typed a ransom note demanding \$30,000 from

Koenig’s family on the back of a photocopy of the photo, sending a text message from the woman’s cellphone with directions where he’d left the note at a local dog park.

Keyes dismembered Koenig’s body and disposed of the remains in a frozen lake north of Anchorage after he cut a hole in the ice, the FBI said in a release.

Keyes, 34, was arrested in Koenig’s death in March in Texas, after using her stolen debit card at ATMs there and in Alaska, Arizona and New Mexico.

After his arrest, Keyes confessed to killing Koenig and at least seven other people across the U.S. over the past decade. His other known victims were Bill and Lorraine Currier of Essex, Vt., who disappeared in June 2011. Keyes told authorities he also sexually assaulted and strangled Lorraine Currier.

The couple’s bodies have not been found.

Keyes confessed to other

killings without identifying the victims or saying where their remains were, other than that four were killed in Washington state and one was killed on the East Coast with the body disposed of in New York. Keyes had lived in Washington state and had property in upstate New York.

Keyes, who faced a March trial in Koenig’s death, was found dead Sunday in his Anchorage jail cell after he apparently killed himself.

Also Tuesday, authorities released video footage of Keyes abducting Koenig, caught by a surveillance camera. Another video shows him returning for her cellphone, followed four minutes later by a man identified by the FBI as Koenig’s boyfriend, who was looking for her.

In the first video, Keyes wears a black ski mask as he climbs through the window of an Anchorage coffee kiosk. Before entering the stand, he orders an Americano coffee, which Koenig makes.

Suspect in deadly NYC subway push implicates self

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities said a suspect implicated himself Tuesday in the death of a New Yorker who was pushed onto the tracks and photographed just before a train hit him—an image that drew virulent criticism after it appeared on the front page of the New York Post.

Investigators recovered security video showing a man fitting the description of the suspect working with street vendors near Rockefeller Center, said New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne.

“The individual we talked to made statements implicating himself in the incident,” Browne said.

Witnesses told investigators they saw the suspect talking to himself Monday afternoon before he approached Ki-Suck

Han at the Times Square station, got into an altercation with him and pushed him into the train’s path.

Police took the man into custody Tuesday, but no charges are expected to be announced until Wednesday, Browne said.

Han, 58, of Queens, died shortly after being struck. Police said he tried to climb a few feet to safety but got trapped between the train and the platform’s edge.

The Post published a photo on its front page Tuesday of Han with his head turned toward the train, his arms reaching up but unable to climb off the tracks in time. It was shot by freelance photographer R. Umar Abbasi, who was waiting to catch a train as the situation unfolded.

Abbasi said in an audio clip

on the Post’s website that he used the flash on his camera to try to warn the train driver that someone was on the tracks. He said he wasn’t strong enough to lift Han.

“I wanted to help the man, but I couldn’t figure out how to help,” Abbasi said. “It all happened so fast.”

Emotional questions arose Tuesday over the published photograph of the helpless man standing before the oncoming train accompanied by the headline that read in part: “This man is about to die.”

The moral issue among professional photojournalists in such situations is “to document or to assist,” said Kenny Irby, an expert in the ethics of visual journalism at the Poynter Institute, a Florida-based nonprofit journalism school.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas murder suspect surrenders after escape

DALLAS (AP)—A nearly two hour standoff with police has ended peacefully for a capital murder suspect officials say took a deputy’s gun and escaped a Dallas hospital. Franklin B. Davis surrendered shortly before 11 p.m. Tuesday. Dallas County sheriff’s spokeswoman Carmen Castro said he was being taken back to Parkland Memorial Hospital, the same hospital from which he’d escaped about 8:30 p.m. Dallas County sheriff’s officials say tactical

squad officers surrounded the 30-year-old Carrollton man about 9 p.m. after he sought refuge in a van about a mile from the hospital.

Calif. gay therapy ban sparks competing rulings

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Two federal judges in California have arrived at opposite conclusions on whether the state’s first-of-its-kind law prohibiting licensed psychotherapists from trying to change the sexual orientations of gay minors violates the Constitution. The mea-

sure remains clear to take effect on Jan. 1. U.S. District Judge Kimberly Mueller on Tuesday refused to block the law after concluding that opponents who have sued in her Sacramento court to overturn it were unlikely to prove the ban on “conversion” therapy unfairly tramples on their civil rights. The opponents argued the law would make them liable for discipline if they merely recommended the therapy to patients or discuss it with them. Mueller said they didn’t demonstrate that they were likely to win, so she wouldn’t block the law.

Asia

More than 100 dead in PH typhoon

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The death toll from Typhoon Bopha climbed to more than 100 people Wednesday, while scores of others remain missing in the worst-hit areas of the southern Philippines.

At least 43 people died when torrents of water rampaged down a mountain in New Bataan town

in Compostela Valley province and engulfed a school and village hall where people were taking shelter from the storm. Nine soldiers and an unspecified number of villages were missing, army Maj. Gen. Ariel Bernardo told The Associated Press.

Six villagers drowned in floods in Montevista town,

Compostela Valley provincial spokeswoman Fe Maestre said.

In nearby Davao Oriental province, 51 people died, mostly in floods, while two men perished when fierce wind ripped their boat from its mooring and it sank on central Siquijor island, according to disaster-response officials.



Residents repair their damaged homes after Typhoon Bopha made landfall in Compostela Valley in southeastern Philippines Tuesday Dec. 4, 2012. AP

China's leaders pledge to reduce pomp and ceremony

BEIJING (AP)—China's leaders pledged Tuesday to reduce pomp, ceremony and red carpets for senior officials who are long accustomed to lavish trappings and distance from ordinary citizens.

In a meeting presided over by newly named Communist Party chief Xi Jinping, members of the 25-member Politburo agreed that officials should reduce ostentation and bureaucratic visits, meetings and talks "in order to

remain close with the public," state media reported.

Chinese government bureaucrats are notoriously status conscious, and even low-level county officials can travel in chauffeur-driven cars.

Chinese microbloggers often mock the arrogance and corruption of officials, leading in some cases to disciplinary action against government and Communist Party leaders whose behavior is seen as par-

ticularly outrageous.

Xi has already warned that the party risks losing its grip on power if it fails to root out corruption, and the government is eager to show that those in power are worthy of their posts.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Politburo agreed that red carpets should no longer be rolled out for officials on visits, and that welcoming flowers and banners must also go, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bombers kill 3 soldiers in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Intelligence officials say a pair of suicide bombers rammed their truck filled with explosives into the gate of an army camp in northwest Pakistan near the Afghan border, killing three soldiers. The officials say the attack Wednesday in Wana, the main town in the South Waziristan tribal area, also wounded eight soldiers. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the media. South Waziristan was the main sanctuary for the Pakistani Taliban before the army launched a large ground offensive in 2009. The army says it has made great progress in flushing the militants out of the area, but attacks still occur periodically.

Australian charged with West Papua violence plan

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—An Australian citizen has been charged in an Australian court with undergoing military training in the Ukraine in order to fight with insurgents against Indonesian authorities in the restive province of West Papua. Gerard Michael Little was refused bail when he appeared in a court in the eastern city of Brisbane on Wednesday charged under federal

law with preparing for an incursion into a foreign state. His potential penalty was not immediately clear. Magistrate Jacqui Payne remanded the 45-year-old invalid pensioner in custody until he appears in court next on Jan. 18. Little did not enter a plea. Prosecutor Justin Williams told the court Little was intercepted on his way to Papua New Guinea and had intended to island-hop, undetected, across the border to West Papua where he planned violence.

Chinese military jet crashes into house; 4 injured

BEIJING (AP)—A military jet on a routine training flight crashed into a house in southern China on Tuesday, setting the building on fire and injuring several people inside, state media reported. China Central Television said the pilot ejected and parachuted to safety before the crash in Shantou city in Guangdong province. It said one of the four people inside the house managed to escape. The three others were hospitalized and one, a 26-year-old woman, was in critical condition, it said. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that four civilians were injured and received treatment at a hospital. Citing the Ministry of Defense, it said the J-7 fighter jet had a mechanical failure just after takeoff from a Shantou airport.

World

100,000 protest at Egypt's presidential palace

CAIRO (AP)—More than 100,000 Egyptians protested outside the presidential palace in Cairo on Tuesday, fueling tensions over Islamist leader Mohammed Morsi's seizure of nearly unrestricted powers and the adoption by his allies of a controversial draft constitution.

The outpouring of anger across the Egyptian capital, the Mediterranean port of Alexandria and a string of other cities pointed to a prolonged standoff between the president and a newly united opposition.

Morsi's opponents, long fractured by bickering and competing egos, have been re-energized since he announced decrees last month that place him above oversight of any

kind, including by the courts, and provide immunity to two key bodies dominated by his allies: The 100-member panel drafting the constitution and parliament's upper chamber.

The decrees have led to charges that Morsi's powers turned him into a "new pharaoh."

The large turnout in Tuesday's protests—dubbed "The Last Warning" by organizers—signaled sustained momentum for the opposition, which brought out at least 200,000 protesters to Cairo's Tahrir Square a week ago and a comparable number on Friday to demand that Morsi rescind the decrees.

The huge scale of the pro-

tests have dealt a blow to the legitimacy of the new constitution, which Morsi's opponents contend allows religious authorities too much influence over legislation, threatens to restrict freedom of expression and opens the door to Islamist control over day-to-day life.

What the revived opposition has yet to make clear is what it will do next: campaign for a "no" vote on the draft constitution in a nationwide referendum set for Dec. 15, or call on Egyptians to boycott the vote.

Already, the country's powerful judges have said they will not take on their customary role of overseeing the vote, thus robbing it of much of its legitimacy.

Fighting surges around Syrian capital of Damascus

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's civil war is closing in on President Bashar Assad's seat of power in Damascus with clashes between government forces and rebels flaring around the city Tuesday, raising fears the capital will become the next major battlefield in the 20-month-old conflict.

Numerous reports emerged of at least a dozen people killed near the ancient city and elsewhere, and the regime said nine students and a teacher died from rebel mortar fire on a school. The state news agency originally said 30 people had been killed in the attack.

While many of the mostly poor, Sunni Muslim suburbs ringing Damascus have long been opposition hotbeds, fighting has intensified in the area in recent weeks as rebels press a battle they hope will finish

Assad's regime.

"The push to take Damascus is a real one, and intense pressure to take control of the city is part of a major strategic shift by rebel commanders," said Mustafa Alani of the Geneva-based Gulf Research Center. "They have realized that without bringing the fight to Damascus, the regime will not collapse."

The increased pressure has raised worries that he or his forces will resort to desperate measures, perhaps striking neighbors Turkey or Israel, or using chemical weapons.

NATO foreign ministers approved Turkey's request for Patriot anti-missile systems to be deployed along its southern border to defend against possible strikes from Syria.

"We stand with Turkey in the spirit of strong solidari-

ty," NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told reporters after the meeting in Brussels. "To anyone who would want to attack Turkey, we say, 'Don't even think about it!'"

Before the meeting, Fogh Rasmussen said he expected any use of chemical weapons to get an "immediate reaction from the international community."

On Monday, President Barack Obama said there would be consequences if Assad made the "tragic mistake" of deploying chemical weapons, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he agreed with the U.S. position.

"We are of the same opinion, that these weapons should not be used and must not reach terror groups," Netanyahu said.

McAfee says he plans to seek asylum in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Software company founder John McAfee has surfaced in public for the first time in weeks, saying Tuesday that he plans to ask for asylum in Guatemala because he fears persecution in Belize.

McAfee spoke to The Associated Press in a restaurant near a high-end hotel where he is staying in Guatemala City after sneaking out of neighboring Belize. Police in Belize have called him a person of interest in the November slaying of a fellow American ex-pat but say there is no warrant for his arrest. Since there are no restrictions on his travels, it's unclear why he would need any special status in order to stay in Guatemala.

McAfee says he is being persecuted by the Belizean government, and he has sensitive information about official corruption in that country. He

has hired a well-known Guatemalan lawyer to assist him.

"I need a safe place where I can actually speak out," McAfee said. "Now that I'm here I can speak freely. I can speak openly."

Belizean police have denied they are persecuting McAfee or are motivated by corruption, saying they have simply been investigating a crime about which McAfee may have information.

Prime Minister Dean Barrow has expressed doubts about McAfee's mental state, saying: "I don't want to be unkind to the gentleman, but I believe he is extremely paranoid, even bonkers."

McAfee told the Associated Press that he will petition the Guatemalan government to allow him to stay. McAfee said he fears he will be killed if he turns himself in for questioning in Belize.

"Belize does not have a good track record of providing safety when they ask to question you," he said. "I felt much more secure crossing the border into a country that had laws that were backed by the justice system."

McAfee is wanted for questioning in connection with the killing of Gregory Viant Faull, who was shot to death in early November on the Belize island where the men lived.

Faull's home was a couple of houses down from the compound where McAfee kept several noisy dogs, armed guards and entertained a steady stream of young women brought in from the mainland. McAfee acknowledges that his dogs were bothersome and that Faull had complained about them, but denied killing Faull. Several of the dogs were poisoned shortly before Faull's killing.

Environment

Pacific nations, environmentalists alarmed by tuna overfishing

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Pacific island nations and environmentalists raised an alarm Sunday over destructive fishing methods and overfishing that they say are threatening bigeye tuna—the fish popular among sushi lovers worldwide.

Palau fisheries official Nannette Malsol, who leads a bloc of Pacific island nations, said at the start of a weeklong tuna fisheries conference in Manila that large countries should cut back on fishing, curb the use of destructive fishing methods and respect fishing bans to allow tuna stocks to be replenished in the Pacific, which produces more than 60 percent of the world's tuna catch.

The annual meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, which regulates commercial fishing in the vast expanse of waters from Indonesia to Hawaii, is to approve steps aimed at protecting the bigeye and other threatened tuna species, along with giant whale sharks. More than 600 delegates from about 40 Asian and Western countries, along with environmental activists,

are attending.

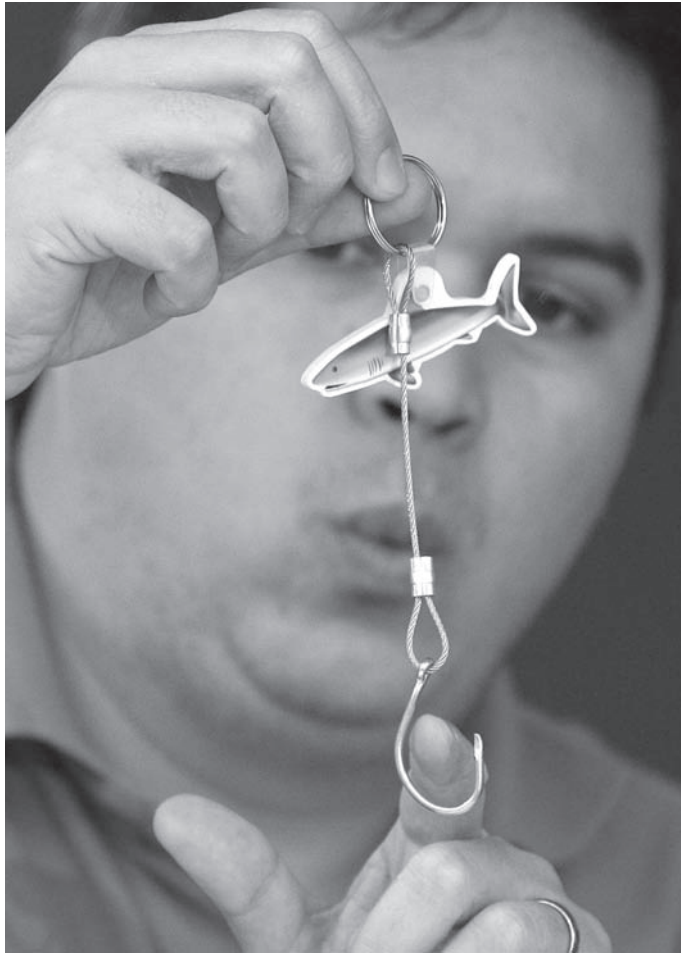
Malsol said she expects heated debate. Proponents of the multibillion-dollar fishing industry have squared off with conservationists in the past over the best ways to protect the bigeye and other species without considerably setting back the lucrative business.

Bigeye and yellowfin tuna, which can grow to 8-9 feet (2.4-2.7 meters) long and weigh more than 450 pounds (200 kilograms), are not in immediate danger of being wiped out, but have been hit hard by overfishing. The fish are used mostly for steaks, and in the case of bigeye, sushi.

The fisheries business in the western and central Pacific region, estimated to be worth about \$5 billion annually, has drawn increasing numbers of industrial fishing fleets, which have caused tuna stocks to fall since the 1960s.

"This week it's up to the big fishing nations to show the world what they are going to do to cut overfishing of bigeye tuna," Malsol said.

Repeated telephone calls and messages to industry officials seeking comment Sunday were not answered.



Angelo Villagomez of the PEW Environment Group shows a sample of a line and hook used to catch tuna during a press conference before the opening of the 9th regular session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in suburban Manila, Philippines on Sunday Dec. 2, 2012.

Many fleets are using so-called "fish aggregation devices"—various types of floats which are used to lure vast numbers of tuna. When schools of tuna have massed under the devices, fishing vessels alerted by sensors approach and scoop up their catch with giant nets.

Between 47,000 and 105,000 fish aggregation devices, made from bamboo, palm fronds, plastic or old nets, have been deployed worldwide to attract a wide variety of marine life. The method is used to catch nearly half of the world's tuna and has contributed to the overfishing of bigeye tuna across the Pacific Ocean, according to the U.S.-based Pew Environment Group.

Aside from tuna, sea turtles, sharks and juvenile fish have often been caught and killed.

"The deployment of tens of thousands of drifting fish aggregating devices in the world's oceans with little to no oversight is extremely worrisome," said Amanda Nickson of the Pew Environment Group.

"The fishing industry is not currently required to account for its use of FADs. It is being allowed to gamble with the health of the ocean, and it is time for governments to require full ac-

countability and management of this proliferating and risky fishing gear," Nickson said.

Conservation efforts, however, have been tough to implement and have sparked disagreements.

Greepeace activists said they will submit evidence to the fisheries commission detailing violations of regional tuna fishing rules by Southeast Asian countries including allowing fishing vessels to operate on the high seas without permits and required observers onboard.

A decision by the fisheries commission to exempt the Philippines from purse seine fishing—an industrial technique in which a net is used to surround and capture schools of fish—in a large swath of the Pacific has sparked complaints from other nations.

The exemption was given to discourage Philippine fleets from fishing in territorial waters off the country's eastern coast, which are known spawning grounds for tuna that later spread out to the Pacific.

Philippine Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala asked the fishing commission to extend the exemption, which he said started last October and would end in February next year.

Oscar-nominated film shown this Friday

First Friday Films is showing a new film titled *Sun Come Up* this Friday, Dec. 7, at 6:30pm at American Memorial Park's theatre as part of its ongoing monthly film series. In keeping with the holiday spirit, the film shows hardship, compassion, and humanity as diverse communities support and accept one another in the face of adversity.

Sun Come Up is an Academy Award-nominated film that shows the human face of climate change. The film follows the relocation of the Carteret Islanders, a community living on a remote island chain in the South Pacific Ocean, and now some of



the world's first environmental refugees. When climate change threatens their survival, the islanders face a painful decision. They must leave their ancestral land in search of a new place to

call home. *Sun Come Up* follows a group of young islanders as they search for land and build relationships in war-torn Bougainville, 50 miles across the open ocean.

First Friday Films is a partnership between American Memorial Park, the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management, and the Humanities Council with

support from other organizations. This particular film is sponsored by CRM. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. For planning purposes, this event will run

about 40 minutes.

For more information about First Friday Films, email fff-saipan@gmail.com or check out www.firstfridayfilmsaipan.blogspot.com. (PR)

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded grants to 45 college teams in phase I of its People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) annual student design competition. Each grant, totaling up to \$15,000 per team, for an overall amount of \$675,000, is applied toward designing and developing sustainable technologies to help protect people's health and the environment while promoting economic development.

Examples of team projects this year include:

- A design for fog harvesting technologies to provide clean water and reduced pollution in

underdeveloped communities;

- A prototype system to improve building energy performance through enhancing heat transmission and solar heat gain;

- A module that can improve the efficiency of solar energy

collectors.

The annual P3 competition begins by awarding grants to student teams to develop and design their proposed technologies. The proposals highlight the team's technology and its

potential for improving quality of life, promoting economic development, and protecting the planet.

"This year's P3 teams are made up of emerging environmental leaders who are part of

the future of environmental and public health protection," said Lek Kadeli, principal deputy assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Research and Development. "These P3 grants encourage the growth of small businesses focused on developing innovative technologies to combat environmental issues."

After eight months of work on their projects, the teams bring their designs to Washington, D.C., to participate in EPA's National Sustainable Design

Expo. During the event, a panel of scientific experts judges the projects. Winners receive a P3 award and recommendation for a second phase grant of up to \$90,000 to further develop their designs and prepare them for the marketplace.

The 9th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo featuring EPA's P3 competition is scheduled for April 20-21, 2013, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The expo is open to the public and will display the 2012 P3 teams' designs.

EPA is currently accepting applications for P3 awards for the 2013-2014 academic year through Dec. 11, 2012.

SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION

EPA awards almost \$700K to student teams

ON THE NET

- More information on the P3 2012 recipients: <http://www.epa.gov/p3/2012recipients>
- More information on past P3 winners: <http://www.epa.gov/p3/multimedia/index.html>
- More information on the expo: <http://www.epa.gov/p3>
- Applying for P3 awards for the 2013-2014 academic year: <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/p3/apply>

Life & Style

‘Peanuts’ creator’s love letters going to auction

NEW YORK (AP)—The late “Peanuts” creator Charles Schulz was once so infatuated with a young woman 23 years his junior he sent her dozens of romantic letters and drawings of his beloved cartoon characters. Many of the themes of that correspondence made it into his daily comic strips at the time.

Now those love notes from 1970-1971 are being offered for sale at Sotheby’s in New York by the family of Tracey Claudius, who the auction house says is ill at her home near Philadelphia. It’s estimated the notes will fetch \$250,000 to \$350,000 at the Dec. 14 auction.

Claudius met the cartoonist on March 16, 1970, while accompanying a friend on an interview assignment. She ostensibly came along as a photographer but afterward admitted in a letter to Schulz that it was a chance for her to meet her idol and thank him “for all the enjoyment Charlie Brown and that ‘stupid beagle’ provide me.”

She was 25. The married Schulz was 48. His comic strip ran for nearly half a century.

Schulz died in 2000 at age 77.

There are 44 letters totaling 56 pages, including 22 original drawings of



This photo provided by Sotheby’s in New York shows some of the romantic letters and drawings the late Peanuts creator Charles Schulz sent to a young woman 23 years his junior, who infatuated him.

some of the characters, primarily Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Lucy. Many are signed “Sparky,” a Schulz nickname.

Sotheby’s says it the most significant

collection of correspondence and drawings by Schulz to come to auction.

“He was quite a private and reserved person,” said Selby Kiffer, Sotheby’s

head of fine books and manuscripts. “I don’t think he carried on long correspondence with friends and acquaintances. There’s no record in the commercial world and auction records of that.”

Schulz often lovingly writes Claudius’ name in triplicate: “Tracey Tracey Tracey.” One letter comments on Claudius’ “good points,” including being “beepable,” “huggable” and “buggable”—language he applied to Lucy and Snoopy in later comic strips, like “Lucy playfully beeped Snoopy’s nose” and Snoopy calling himself “buggable and huggable.”

In two letters from 1970 Schulz writes that he must cease calling Claudius because his long-distance phone calls to her had been discovered by his wife. Soon after, he created a strip in which Charlie Brown berated Snoopy for his obnoxious behavior when he’s not allowed to go out “to see that girl beagle.” In subsequent panels, Charlie warns Snoopy “you’d better start behaving yourself” and when Snoopy picks up the telephone, Charlie Brown yells “And stop making those long-distance phone calls.”

He also sent her a dictionary dust jacket filled with comments including “I’m going to return my new dictionary ... there are no words to tell you how much I love you.”

In his 2007 book, “Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography,” David Michaelis said Schulz was almost between two marriages when he embarked on the romance with Claudius. The first marriage ended in 1972; he remarried in 1973.

Michaelis said Schulz twice proposed to Claudius but she turned him down for fear of ruining his reputation as one of America’s most loved icons.

Fleetwood Mac readies tour and new music

NEW YORK (AP)—Fleetwood Mac is heading back on the road, and that means the top-selling group will release new music—sort of.

On its 34-city North American tour, which kicks off April 4 in Columbus, Ohio, the band will perform two new songs, and it could mean a new album will follow. Or not.

Stevie Nicks recently sang on tracks that Lindsey Buckingham, Mick Fleetwood and John McVie worked on, calling the sessions “great.” But Nicks also says she’s not sure where the band fits in today’s music industry.

“Whether or not we’re gonna do any more (songs), we don’t know because we’re so completely bummed out with the state of the music industry and the fact that nobody even wants a full record,” she said. “Everybody wants two songs, so we’re going to give them two songs.”

Nicks said depending on the response to the new tracks—which Buckingham calls “the most Fleetwood Mac-y stuff ... in a long time”—more material could come next.

“Maybe we’ll get an EP out of it or something,” Buckingham said.

Nicks will continue to record solo albums, though. The group is celebrating the 35th anniversary of the best-selling “Rumours” album, which has moved some 20 million units in the United States. She knows that’s not possible again, despite the success of Adele’s “21,” which has sold 10 million units in America in less than two years.

“This is Adele’s ‘Rumours,’” Nicks said. “She had a baby, she’s going to take a year off to take care of her baby—that’s why I never had any kids. She’s going to go back and start writing again, you never know what the next record’s going to be. Is it going to sell 10 million records? You don’t know,” she said.

Buckingham said he initially wanted to record a new album, but Nicks “wasn’t too into that.” But the guitarist and singer knows that new music isn’t a priority for the band’s fans.

“It wouldn’t matter if they didn’t hear anything new. In a way there’s a freedom to that—it becomes not what you got, but what you do with what you got. Part of the challenge of this tour is figuring out a presentation that has some twists and turns to it without having a full album,” he said.

Fleetwood Mac, which was formed in 1967, last released an album in 2003, though they hit the road in 2009. Nicks and Buckingham—who originally joined the band in 1974 as a couple—both released solo albums and toured last year. Buckingham had suggested that Fleetwood Mac tour last year, but says getting everyone to agree was tough.

“If you look at Fleetwood Mac as a group, you can make the case of saying we’re a bunch of individuals who don’t necessarily belong in the same group together, but it’s the synergy of that that makes us so good. But it also makes the politics a little more tenuous,” he said. “You can say that not only can it be a political minefield, someone’s always causing trouble, right? I caused trouble for years so I can’t point any fingers.”

The tour also includes cities such as New York, Chicago, Boston, Las Vegas and Los Angeles, and will end June 12 in Detroit.

George Takei beams into Archie’s Riverdale

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Mr. Sulu in Riverdale? Oh my!

Actor and equal rights advocate George Takei, whose portrayal of the Star Trek character in television and film has made him a science fiction legend, is crossing a new frontier this week by appearing as himself in issue No. 6 of Archie Comics’ “Kevin Keller,” a series about Riverdale’s only gay teenager.

Takei, who is also gay, said his appearance in the issue that is released Wednesday dovetails nicely with his real-life advocacy for equal rights because it helps bring home his message that anyone can aspire to be what they want to be no matter who they are.

“With Archie Comics, it’s a fun way and a natural way and an ideal way of advocating happily,” Takei said.

Jon Goldwater, Archie Comics’ co-

chief executive officer, said writer and artist Dan Parent “met George at a convention and asked him if he’d be interested in appearing in the Kevin Keller comic, and being a huge Star Trek fan I flipped when he agreed. Sulu was always my favorite character so I said do whatever it takes to get him in the comic.”

Takei, who is signing copies of the comic Wednesday at Midtown Comics in New York, was quick to say yes.

“I remember as a preteen and a teenager, I used to read Archie Comics,” said Takei, 75, who grew up in California. “I was so flattered.”

In the story Takei is the subject of an essay by Keller who cites him as an inspirational hero—not just for his acting—but his advocating on behalf of Asian-Americans and gays and lesbians, too.



“I’ve always been an advocate. I grew up in two U.S. internment camps. I was too young to understand that at the time,” he said. “As a teenager I couldn’t reconcile what I was reading in my civics books with my boyhood.”

That led him to realize that he would have to speak out and up for equality, something he’s been doing publicly since coming out in 2005. It’s also gotten him nearly 3.1 million fans on Facebook where he blends humor, nerdiness and earnestness in his postings.

“Humor plays and kittens play,” he said of his page. “And I slip in a little advocacy in between because it’s me.”

This comic book cover released by Archie Comics shows an animated depiction of George Takei as Mr. Sulu from “Star Trek,” center, with Archie characters for issue No. 6 of Archie Comics’ “Kevin Keller,” series about Riverdale’s only gay teenager.

Huston’s “Infrared” wins Bad Sex fiction prize

LONDON (AP)—It’s the prize no author wants to win.

Award-winning novelist Nancy Huston won Britain’s Bad Sex in Fiction award Tuesday for her novel “Infrared,” whose tale of a photographer who takes pictures of her lovers during sex proved too revealing for the judges.

The choice was announced by “Downton Abbey” actress Samantha Bond during a ceremony at the Naval & Military Club in London.

Judges of the tongue-in-cheek prize—which is run by the Literary Review magazine—said they were struck by a description of “flesh, that archaic kingdom that brings forth tears and terrors, nightmares, babies and bedazzlements,” and by a long passage that builds to a climax of “undulating space.”

Huston, who lives in Paris, was not on hand to collect her prize. In a statement read by her publicist, the 59-year-old author said she hoped

her victory would “incite thousands of British women to take close-up photos of their lovers’ bodies in all states of array and disarray.”

The Canada-born Huston, who writes in both French and English, is the author of more than a dozen novels, including “Plainsong” and “Fault Lines.” She has previously won France’s Prix Goncourt prize and was a finalist for Britain’s Orange Prize for fiction by women.

She is only the third woman to win the annual Bad Sex prize, founded in 1993 to name and shame authors of “crude, tasteless and ... redundant passages of sexual description in contemporary novels.”

Some critics, however, have praised the sexual passages in “Infrared.” Shirley Whiteside in the Independent on Sunday newspaper said there were “none of the lazy clichés of pornography or the purple prose of modern romantic fiction”—though she conceded the book’s sex scenes were “more perfunctory than erotic.”

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies,
GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Joeten Superstore in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$6.00 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
\$6.00 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.75 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$6.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$6.00 Military with Valid I.D.
\$2.50 Additional for 3D Shows

**BUY \$30
IN GIFT CARDS
& RECEIVE**

A FREE MEDIUM POPCORN! Available at the box office & online

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com



Friday, Nov. 30th through Thursday, Dec. 6th, 2012
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ NOW SHOWING ★



Rise of the Guardians 3D

Friday		7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		7:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

A group of mythical fairy-tale characters team up to save the world in this DreamWorks Animation production. Based on William Joyce's series of children's books, the pic features the voice acting talents of Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law, and Isla Fisher. Peter Ramsey co-directs with Joyce.



Life of Pi 3D

Friday		7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:05	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		7:05	

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Red Dawn

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson
Genre: Action • Rated PG13



Life of Pi 2D

Friday		4:05	
Saturday		4:05	
Sunday		4:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Rise of the Guardians 2D

Friday		4:30	
Saturday		4:30	
Sunday		4:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13



Flight

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly
Genre: Drama • Rated R



Skyfall

Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem
Genre: Spy film, Action • Rated PG13



Wreck-It Ralph 2D

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Netflix outbids Starz for rights to Disney movies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Netflix's Internet video service has landed the U.S. rights to show Disney movies shortly after they leave theaters, a coup that could turn into a costly mistake if the deal doesn't bring in more customers.

The multiyear licensing agreement announced Tuesday represents a breakthrough for Netflix as it tries to secure more exclusive programming for a popular service that streams video over high-speed Internet connections. The approach is making Netflix more like traditional pay-TV channels such as HBO, Starz and Showtime.

Financial terms weren't disclosed, but analysts estimate that Netflix will pay Disney more than \$350 million annually. That's a hefty bill that will require Netflix to accelerate its subscriber growth or consider raising its prices—something that management has vowed not to do after rankling customers with rate hikes last year.

Netflix is snatching the rights to the Disney movies from Starz, which had failed to reach terms on renewing a separate licensing agreement with Netflix. Until February, Netflix's streaming service had access to Disney movies through that Starz deal. The loss had been interpreted as a blow that diminished Netflix's market value.

Investors applauded Netflix Inc. for trumping Starz to get the Disney rights directly from The Walt Disney Co.—and for winning an exclusive provision that shuts out Starz and other rivals.

Netflix shares surged \$10.65, or 14 percent, to close Tuesday at \$86.65, its highest closing price since April. That's still far below its peak of nearly \$305, reached around the time that



This combination of AP file photos shows the Walt Disney logo in Burbank, Calif. on June 2, 2006, and Netflix's headquarters in Los Gatos, Calif., on March 20, 2012.

Netflix announced its price increase in July 2011. Rates went up as much as 60 percent for those who wanted to stream Internet video and keep receiving DVDs through the mail, too.

The stock of Starz's owner, Liberty Media Corp., sank \$5.49, or nearly 5 percent, to \$105.56. Disney shares added a penny to \$49.30.

It's the first time that one of Hollywood's major studios has sold the coveted first-run rights to Netflix Inc. instead of a premium TV network.

DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc. licensed the pay-TV rights to its movies to Netflix last year under a deal that begins in 2013, but those movies don't wield the same box-office appeal as Disney.

"It's a bold leap forward for Internet television and we are incredibly pleased and proud

this iconic family brand is teaming with Netflix to make it happen," said Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer.

Netflix CEO Reed Hastings is counting on more compelling movies and TV shows to attract more customers. The company is hoping they will become loyal subscribers once they see how much video is available for just \$8 per month—a price that undercuts the rates of most pay-TV channels. Furthermore, Netflix is available as a stand-alone service, while premium channels such as Starz require cable or satellite TV packages that average about \$80 a month.

Netflix had 25.1 million Internet video subscribers in the U.S. through September, up from 21.5 million at the same time last year. Starz's premium channel had 20.8 million subscrib-

ers at the end of September, up from 19 million a year ago.

Janney Capital Markets analyst Tony Wible said the licensing agreement was a sign of Disney's long-term faith in Netflix, despite intensifying competition in streaming services from Amazon.com Inc., Comcast Corp. and Verizon Communications Inc.

The Disney agreement gives Netflix's streaming service the exclusive U.S. rights to offer Disney's live-action and animation movies during the period normally reserved for pay-TV channels. That period typically starts about seven months after movies leave theaters. The subscription service can then usually show the movies for an 18-month stretch. The Disney exclusivity does not extend to DVDs, a service Netflix is trying to phase out.

'Walking Dead' is 1st cable series to top fall TV ratings

By SCOTT COLLINS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK—Those zombies in "The Walking Dead" have already terrorized the good people of Atlanta. Now they're gobbling down the ratings record books too.

AMC's zombie smash has

become the first cable series to win the fall TV ratings in the key demographic of adults ages 18 to 49, according to Nielsen.

That includes established network series such as "Modern Family," "The Voice" and "The Big Bang Theory," as well as the new fall shows like "El-

ementary" and "Revolution."

What kind of power does "Dead" have? Well, Sunday's "mid-season finale"—the show will return in February—drew 10.5 million viewers. Throw in a couple of encores, and the total rose to 15.2 million.

Season 3 also has been aver-

aging an additional 3.4 million viewers who watch later in the week and are included in the DVR numbers.

"The records that 'The Walking Dead' shattered today represent an enormous achievement of which we are so proud," said Charlie Collier, AMC's president.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Dec. 3, 2012:

TOP SONGS

1. "Scream & Shout (feat. Britney Spears)," will.i.am
2. "My Life (feat. Eminem & Adam Levine)," 50 Cent
3. "Locked Out of Heaven," Bruno Mars
4. "Gangnam Style," PSY
5. "Ho Hey," The Lumineers
6. "Home," Phillip Phillips
7. "Die Young," Ke\$ha
8. "Diamonds," Rihanna
9. "Girl On Fire (feat. Nicki Minaj)," Alicia Keys
10. "I Cry," Flo Rida

TOP ALBUMS

1. "Girl On Fire," Alicia Keys
2. "The World from the Side of the Moon," Phillip Phillips
3. "One Night — EP," Timeflies
4. "Unapologetic," Rihanna
5. "Christmas," Michael Buble
6. "Red," Taylor Swift
7. "Dance (RED) Save Lives (Presented By Tiësto)," Tiësto
8. "The Lumineers," The Lumineers
9. "Merry Christmas, Baby," Rod Stewart
10. "Babel," Mumford & Sons

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Dec. 3, 2012:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
2. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
3. Bad Piggies (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
4. Fantastical (Flexibits Inc.)
5. Wreck-It Ralph (Disney)
6. Minecraft — Pocket Edition (Mojang)
7. Bloons TD 5 (Ninja Kiwi)
8. Offroad Legends (Dogbyte Games Kft.)
9. KitCam (GhostBird Software)
10. The Walking Dead: Assault (The Walking Dead: Assault)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. Dental Surgery (Maura Thompson)
2. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
3. Snapchat (Snapchat, Inc.)
4. Doors&Rooms (gameday Inc.)
5. Hill Climb Racing (Fingersoft)
6. Facebook (Facebook, Inc.)
7. Flick Golf! (Full Fat)
8. Instagram (Burbn, Inc.)
9. Pandora Radio (Pandora Media, Inc.)
10. Flashlight ? (iHandy Inc.)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Angry Birds Star Wars HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
2. Wreck-It Ralph (Disney)
3. Minecraft — Pocket Edition (Mojang)
4. Pages (Apple)
5. Where's My Water? (Disney)
6. Sky Gamblers: Storm Raiders (Atypical Games)
7. The Walking Dead: Assault (The Walking Dead: Assault)
8. Bad Piggies HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
9. GarageBand (Apple)
10. Offroad Legends (Dogbyte Games Kft.)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. Video Tube Free for YouTube (Yau You Music Video Professionals — Tube Studio)
2. Flick Golf HD (Full Fat)
3. Dental Surgery (Maura Thompson)
4. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.a.r.l)
5. eBooks (Apple)
6. Calculator for iPad Free (International Travel Weather Calculator)
7. Podcasts (Apple)
8. Toca Tailor Fairy Tales (Toca Boca AB)
9. PITFALL! (Activision Publishing, Inc.)
10. iTunes U (Apple)

Hugh Hefner, fiancée obtain marriage license

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hugh Hefner and Crystal Harris are again taking steps toward the altar, more than a year after the centerfold canceled their previous engagement and was branded a “runaway bride” in Playboy.

The couple obtained a marriage license Tuesday at a courthouse in Beverly Hills.

Harris called off the couple’s previous engagement in June 2011, prompting Playboy to affix “runaway bride” stickers to an issue introducing her as Mrs. Hefner.

Celebrity website TMZ first reported the couple’s license. It says they reunited earlier this year and plan to wed on New Year’s Eve.

LA County Recorder Public Information Officer Elizabeth Knox says the license is valid for 90 days.

The Playboy founder has been married twice before. His spokeswoman Teri Thomerson didn’t immediately return a message Tuesday.



In this April 26, 2010 file photo, Hugh Hefner, left, and Crystal Harris arrive at the premiere of “Iron Man 2” at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles.

Anderson Cooper says he suffered sun blindness

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anderson Cooper says a reporting assignment turned into a temporary blindness scare.

On his talk show Tuesday, Cooper said he was in Portugal last week working on a story for “60 Minutes” and spent two hours on the water. The newsman says that later, he developed a burning sensation in his eyes and lost sight for 36 hours.

Showing a photo he took of himself with an eye patch, Cooper joked it would be his new online dating picture.

On a more serious note, Cooper said he wanted to warn viewers about the risk.

Dr. Nancy Snyderman, chief medical correspondent for NBC News, explained to Cooper he had suffered a retina burn. Snyderman cautioned that “everybody needs sunglasses,” adding that protection from the sun can prevent cataracts later in life.

In this Sunday, Dec. 2, 2012 file photo, reporter Anderson Cooper arrives at CNN Heroes at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.



Comedian Katt Williams arrested in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)—Stand-up comedian and actor Katt Williams said he was ordered to leave a Seattle hotel late Monday, hours after he was released from jail following a dispute at a bar.

Williams was ordered to leave a Courtyard Marriott after an unspecified incident that involved a police presence, Seattlepi.com reported.

Williams didn’t say why he was ejected, and neither police

nor a hotel manager immediately returned calls from the Associated Press. Attempts to reach Williams were not immediately successful.

Williams was released from jail early Monday after police said he argued with a patron at a bar, menaced the manager with a pool cue and refused to leave World Sports Grille on Sunday. He was also accused of flicking a cigarette into a woman’s

face through a car window and throwing a rock at the vehicle.

Police said Williams struggled with officers who arrested him and jailed him for investigation of assault, harassment and obstruction.

Police said Williams also was involved in an altercation with three fans Friday evening after they tried to take a photo with him. He said they had forced their way into his dressing room.

Michael Richards signed to TV Land sitcom pilot

NEW YORK (AP)—TV Land says it has cast “Seinfeld” star Michael Richards in a pilot for a prospective new sitcom.

The series, “Giant Baby,” also would feature fellow “Cheers” alums Kirstie Alley and Rhea Perlman.

TV Land said Tuesday the pilot will be taped next week.

“Giant Baby” focuses on Broadway star Madeline Banks, played by Alley. Richards plays her limo driver while Perlman plays her assistant.

This would be Richards’ first regular series role since his short-lived eponymous NBC sitcom aired in 2000. Before that, he played Jerry Seinfeld’s kookie neighbor Cosmo Kramer on the wildly popular “Seinfeld” series.

In the meantime, Richards performed as a standup comedian. He lost his temper while being heckled at a club in 2006 and was caught on tape shouting the N-word. He later apologized.



Richards

Signs of dementia were more apparent at work than home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Alzheimer’s and other dementias are a growing epidemic in America. Frequently, co-workers are the ones who notice a decline in functioning.

Could you please remind your readers to speak up to a family member when they see their co-workers struggling? My 62-year-old husband was recently diagnosed, and I have since learned that his co-workers spotted his troubles long before I did at home. Had I been informed, he could possibly have retired on disability and have Medicare today (which he does not now). Additionally, he would have known to have structured his retirement to include survivorship on his pension, which he did not.

I realize his co-workers were in a difficult spot, so I’m not blaming them, but I’m hoping a few words from you might get the word out to others: Friends, when you notice someone is declining, please speak up.

DONNA IN VIRGINIA

DEAR DONNA: I’m sorry about your husband’s diagnosis. Although there have been warnings that it was coming for years, the Alzheimer’s epidemic is here now and millions more families will be touched by this progressive — and ultimately fatal — disease unless its course can be altered.

As you have so poignantly stated, there are benefits to the early detection of Alzheimer’s, including the opportunity to take advantage of available treatments, leverage resources in the workplace, plan for the future and seek help.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, knowing the warning signs of Alzheimer’s and speaking up when you notice them are **CRITICAL** to early detection and receiving the best possible care. While this may be an uncomfortable conversation, if you notice these signs in anyone — including a colleague — it is extremely important to share your concerns with the family or with someone in human resources. The person should be evaluated by a physician. A doctor will be able to determine whether the symptoms are caused by Alzheimer’s disease or something else.

To learn the 10 Early Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer’s, visit alz.org/10signs or call 1-800-272-3900.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago, my brother told me his wife had been having an affair. Needless to say, they divorced and I sided with my brother.

A few days ago, I learned that my brother was actually the one who had been having the affair, not my sister-in-law. He and his current wife had a child they claimed was her first husband’s, and when they married he “adopted” all of her children from her first marriage.

Because we lived in different states at the time it was easy to believe what I was told. I think that my ex-sister-in-law deserves an apology from us all. At the same time, I want to confront my brother about the lie. We are still not sure if the child, who is now an adult, knows my brother is really her biological father.

LIED TO IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LIED TO: I don’t think it is ever too late to offer an apology where one is needed, so contact your former sister-in-law and tell her that you now know the truth and you are sorry. Because you feel the need to speak your mind to your brother, do so.

HOWEVER, whether your niece knows that your brother is her biological father is not your business, and you certainly should not be the person to enlighten her if she doesn’t know. That news should come from her parents.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Frankie Muniz tweets that he had a ‘mini stroke’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Frankie Muniz says he was hospitalized last week after suffering a “mini stroke.” The former star of “Malcolm in the Middle” wrote on Twitter Tuesday that he was treated Friday for a “mini stroke,” which he describes as “not fun at all.” He says he has to “start taking care of my body. Getting old!” but provided no other details.

Muniz turns 27 Wednesday. A repre-

sentative for Muniz did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

David Mamet, Kathie Lee Gifford suffer losses

NEW YORK (AP) — David Mamet’s new play “The Anarchist” and Kathie Lee Gifford’s “Scandalous” will both end their Broadway runs much earlier than their creators wanted. Producers said Tuesday night that Mamet’s play starring Patti LuPone and Debra Winger portraying an inmate

and warden respectively will close Dec. 16 after just 23 previews and 17 performances. Producers of “Scandalous,” a musical about the life of preacher Aimee Semple McPherson, said it will quit even earlier, after the matinee on Dec. 9 following 60 shows. Both shows got dreadful reviews and struggled at the box office. Those two shows join “The Performers,” a play set in the porn industry, with quick exits in the past few months on Broadway. “The Performers” opened and closed in November after just 23 previews and seven regular performances.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Auto Marine Inc. is looking for (1) Diesel Engine Mechanic. Must have 5 yrs experience. If interested, Call 323-2916 and ask for Adonis Santos or Leila Bais.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR
Must be College Graduate with a 4-year degree & with at least 5-year experience of property management, pawnshop and real estate. Knowledgeable in real estate and drilling operations, gold acid testing and QuickBooks preferred.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SPECIALIST
College Graduate with a 4-year degree and with real estate, pawnshop and drilling business experience is preferred. Has excellent customer service and organizational skills and skilled in dealing with financial and numeric data.

WELL DRILLER
Minimum of 8 years experience of monitoring water well drilling & boring holes. Must have excellent knowledge & skill in well servicing & well drilling using different methods & other necessary drilling equipment, tools & machines. OSHA & HAZWOPER Certification are required.

DRILLER HELPER
Minimum of 5 years experience of assisting in water well drilling & boring holes. Must have excellent knowledge & skill in well servicing & well drilling. OSHA & HAZWOPER Certification are required.

CONSTRUCTION LABORER
Minimum of 5 years experience of performing tasks involving physical labor in well construction & real estate development projects, specializing in water well drilling projects & commercial and residential property maintenance service. OSHA & HAZWOPER Certification are required.

COMMERCIAL CLEANER
Minimum of 5 years experience. Responsible in doing chores & any other related duties assigned by the employer by performing a combination of duties to clean & maintain private residence & office in a clean & orderly manner. With Driver's License & private transportation is preferred.

Alexander Incorporated
Alexander Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950
For inquiries, please call 234-5117.

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... **\$29.99** without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
\$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

DPA CAR MART
We're buying '95 & Up used cars!
Transaction only within 30 mins.
Call 287-8688 or visit
DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

Charms Inc.
Vacancy Announcement
1-Engine Machine Mechanic. 2yrs experience. To inspect, repair, replace engine and machinery.
1-Beautician Manager. 2yrs experience. Knowledge in Skin Care. Manage and operate the saloon.
Interested applicants please call 233-9391.

CMLC ARTHA CO., LTD.
PMB 771 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
1 General Manager. Salary \$1,200.00-\$1,800.00 per month. 2 years management experience. Professional Scuba Diving Instructor License preferred. Proficient in English & Japanese (reading, writing, speaking)
2 Scuba Diver. Salary \$962.00-\$1,500.00 per month. 1 to 2 years experience or equivalent. Professional Scuba Diving Instructor License required. Reading and writing foreign language preferred.
1 Dive Master/Helper. Salary \$1,200.00-\$1,500.00 per month. 2 years experience in scuba diving. Professional Scuba Diving Instructor License required. Reading and writing foreign language preferred.
Interested U.S. applicants, may email resume to Edward@miona-usa.com

MAR PAC
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Marianas Pacific Dist., Inc. is looking for highly motivated individuals to work as
Graphic Artist Trainee
• Good Oral and Written Communications Skills
• Must have some knowledge in Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator
• Knowledge in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Outlook is a plus
• Knowledge of Corel Draw & Onyx Poster Shop is a plus
• Must be willing to learn
• Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
• Must be 18 yrs of age or older
MarPac Dist., Inc Offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.
Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village – Saipan. Deadline of submission is on December 10, 2012.
NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.
As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and Eligibility to work in the CNMI. Drug testing, Police and Court Clearance.
MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Make it your daily habit.
Log on to www.saipantribune.com

IT&E
Life in Motion
IT&E was awarded a 2-year contract from the Commonwealth Utility Commission (CUC) to handle CUC's daily phone calls. To fulfill the contract, we are looking for Eight (8) part-time, temporary Receptionists.
This is a 24-hour, 7-day-per-week operation and the receptionists must be able to work any shift assigned.
Primary duties:
• Answer and forward calls to appropriate CUC personnel or department
• Answer common questions per approved CUC scripts
• Initiate 'disconnection calls' to CUC customers scheduled for disconnection of services
• Use web-based application for emails, customer support tickets
• Meet answer time and quality objectives for CUC
• Perform other related duties or tasks as assigned or required
Applicant must have:
• A high school diploma or equivalent
• Strong English verbal and written skills
• Strong listening skills and attention to detail
• Friendly and motivated personality
• Enough computer experience to quickly grasp the computer hardware and software that are customized and job-specific
• The ability to learn the job quickly
Other requirements:
• Communicate in English with customers clearly, concisely and accurately over the phone
• Authorization to legally work in the CNMI
• Work in an air-conditioned office environment
• Sit for long periods of time and to perform duties wearing a head set, maintain alertness and attention to detail
• Work the required shifts and hours of this position to include possible overtime
Part-time employees will work at least 6 hours a day.
Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application by Monday, December 10, 2012, and submit it to IT&E Headquarters building in Susupe.
IT&E is an Equal Opportunity Employer

WHATZIT Solution: Great Expectations

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES
Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS
Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE
Classified Ads
Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION
Classified Ads
Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
XPECTATIONS
www.facebook.com/dingbatgames
WHATZIT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

Wizards beat Heat for second win of season



WASHINGTON (AP)—His feet soaking in a tub of ice, his eyes scanning a box score, LeBron James chuckled a bit at the notion that his Miami Heat might learn something from a surprising setback against the Washington Wizards.

"Nah, man, there's not no lesson. This ain't a lesson for us. We just lost," James explained. "We've seen and been through everything, so we don't need a loss to be like, 'Oh, let's catch ourselves.' It happens."

Not too many people figured this outcome would happen, though, a message Wizards coach Randy Wittman delivered to his players before their worst-in-the-NBA team went out and beat the Heat 105-101 on Tuesday night behind Jordan Crawford's 22 points—and despite James' triple-double of 26 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists.

Perhaps inspired by the courtside presence of Washington Redskins rookie quarterback Robert Griffin III, who exchanged a handshake with Cowboys fan James after the final buzzer, the Wizards doubled their victory total this season. The Wizards improved to 2-13, earning their second win in the past three games after starting a franchise-worst 0-12.

"I'm so happy for those guys," said Wittman, who called this perhaps the most satisfying victory of his coaching career.

He said he told his team beforehand: "The only people that think you have a chance tonight are the people here in this room. ... We need to have a statement game."

And, Wittman continued, "I said, 'I've seen it a number of times, guys.' ... (People say), 'They ain't got a chance to win this game.' And that's what people were saying. We all listen. Could hear it on the street and all that. These guys, it bothers them."

The reigning NBA champion Heat's six-game winning streak ended, and they fell to 12-4.

"You move on," said Dwyane Wade, who scored 24 for Miami. "You learn from it, but you don't become a good team by holding onto certain losses—or certain wins."

The Wizards don't defeat many teams, but they defeat the Heat: This made it three consecutive regular-season victories for Washington over Mi-



Washington Wizards guard Jordan Crawford (15) takes a shot against Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem (40) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2012, in Washington.

ami, including two last season in April. "It's a big momentum win for us, obviously. We've been struggling to put together four quarters," Washington point guard Shaun Livingston said.

The Heat were the ones rushing shots on occasion and they made only 8 of 28 attempts on 3-pointers. The Wizards, surprisingly, were the ones being patient, making the extra pass, finding the teammate with an open look—and

finishing with 31 assists on 38 baskets.

With a crowd of 17,761—not, incidentally, a sellout—standing and screaming down the stretch, relishing that rare chance to witness a compelling game, Kevin Seraphin contributed 16 points and 10 rebounds for the hosts, Crawford made three free throws in the final 11 seconds, and James missed a potentially tying 3-pointer with 3.9 to go.

After trailing by as many as 12, Miami tied the game at 88 on Bosh's reverse layup with 6 minutes, 50 seconds left. But Crawford's 15-footer put Washington ahead 99-95 with a little more than 2 1/2 minutes remaining.

With 18 seconds left, James wasted a chance to give the Heat the lead, clanking a 3-point attempt. Crawford's free throw then made it 102-99, and he slapped his palms together vociferously. James made a shot in the lane to pull within 102-101, and Crawford added two free throws for a 104-101 edge with 6.9 seconds on the clock.

James then missed his last shot, another 3. Nene got the rebound, and tacked on a free throw.

Thunder 117, Nets 111

In New York, Kevin Durant scored 32 points, Russell Westbrook had 25 points and nine assists, and Oklahoma City held off Brooklyn for its sixth straight victory.

Serge Ibaka added 18 points and Thabo Sefolosha 14 for the Thunder, who revved up the NBA's No. 1 offense to surpass 100 points in a 10th straight game for the first time in 15 years.

The Thunder, who beat the Nets for the seventh straight time, let a 16-point lead shrink to two down the stretch, even as they shot 60.6 percent for the game.

Deron Williams scored a season-high 34 points for the Nets, who had their six-game home winning streak snapped.

Rockets 107, Lakers 105

In Houston, Toney Douglas had a season-high 22 points and Greg Smith added a career-best 21 to help Houston beat Los Angeles.

The Lakers had a 13-point lead with less than 10 minutes to go, but Houston used two big runs, including a 9-2 spurt, to take a 100-99 lead with about 2 1/2 minutes left.

Kobe Bryant hit a 3-pointer with 13.3 seconds left to cut the lead to 106-105 before fouling Douglas, who made one of two free throws with 8.8 seconds left. Bryant missed a 3-point attempt before Metta World Peace was off on a putback to give Houston the win.

Bryant led the Lakers with 39 points and Howard had 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Pacers 80, Bulls 76

In Chicago, Paul George scored 34 points, and Roy Hibbert added 10 points and 11 rebounds to help Indiana close its road trip at 3-1 with a win over Chicago.

The Bulls, who failed to win three straight for the first time this season, were able to keep David West, Indiana's leading scorer, in check—but George picked up the slack.

George scored 10 points in the first quarter, highlighted by a thunderous dunk as George Hill's 3-point attempt bounced up off the back of the rim.

Nate Robinson scored 19 of the 25 points the Bulls got from their reserves. Carlos Boozer notched his seventh double-double in nine games with 14 points and 10 rebounds for Chicago.

Grizzlies 108, Suns 98, OT

In Memphis, Tenn., Zach Randolph set season highs with 38 points and 22 rebounds to carry Memphis down the stretch and in overtime in a win over Phoenix.

Randolph was 15 of 22 from the field and he dominated in the latter stages of the fourth quarter and early minutes of overtime. He also had three blocks, two in overtime, as Memphis outscored the Suns 14-4 in the extra period, with all the Suns' points coming at the foul line.

Quincy Pondexter had a season-high 16 points for Memphis, while Marc Gasol and Rudy Gay scored 14 apiece. Mike Conley had 11 points and five assists for the Grizzlies.

Goran Dragic scored 19 points and Luis Scola added 16 for the Suns.

Timberwolves 105, 76ers 88

In Philadelphia, Josh Howard had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Alexey Shved hit four 3-pointers and scored 17 points to lead Minnesota over Philadelphia.

Kevin Love had six points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who raced to a 23-point lead in the first half. Jose Barea came off the bench and finished with 11 points and 10 assists, and three other Minnesota reserves also reached double figures.

The Timberwolves made 11 of their first 19 3-point attempts after coming in shooting a woeful 27 percent from long range this season.

Evan Turner led the Sixers with 19 points.

Belcher told cops he was waiting for 'girlfriend'



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher told officers who found him sleeping in his car outside an apartment complex hours before he committed a murder-suicide that he was there to visit a woman he described as his "girlfriend," but that she wasn't home.

The apartment complex is about 10 miles from the Kansas City home Belcher shared with 22-year-old Kassandra Perkins, the mother of their 3-month-old daughter Zoey. Belcher shot Perkins at their home Saturday morning before driving to Arrowhead Stadium, where he committed suicide in the practice facility's parking lot, police said.

Police responded to a report about 2:50 a.m. Saturday of a man sleeping in his car outside an apartment building,

police spokesman Darin Snapp said Tuesday. When police approached the car, Belcher got out of the vehicle and was cooperative, Snapp said.

"We ask him 'Why are you sleeping here?', and he says he's there to visit his girlfriend, but she's not home," Snapp said.

When police determined Belcher didn't have any outstanding warrants, Snapp said Belcher, 25, made a phone call and a short time later, a woman let Belcher into her building. Police did not question the woman and don't know who she is, he said.

"When he was sleeping she may have come home, and he didn't realize," Snapp said. "He was very cooperative and thanked the officers."

Snapp said that was the last contact police had with Belcher "until his name came up" with the shooting at his home.

Witnesses have since told police that Belcher stayed at that apartment until 6:30 a.m., Snapp said.

At about 7:50 a.m., police were called to Belcher's home after he had shot and killed Perkins, whose body was found on the floor of the master bathroom with multiple gunshot wounds, according to a police incident report.

Belcher then drove about five miles to Arrowhead Stadium, where he was met by general manager Scott Pioli and coach Romeo Crennel, who Belcher thanked for all they had done for him. When police arrived, Belcher moved behind a vehicle, out of clear view of officers, Snapp said. He said Belcher then knelt down and shot himself once in the head.

Snapp said Belcher also used two separate, legally registered handguns in the shootings.

Friends have said the relationship between Belcher and Perkins was strained. The couple briefly lived apart recently before getting back together by Thanksgiving, friend Brianne York told The Associated Press.

Kansas City Chiefs spokesman Ted Crews said Tuesday he wasn't aware of what counseling efforts the team may have made for Belcher and Perkins.

Belcher played college football at the University of Maine, where he repeatedly was the subject of university police reports. A University of Maine spokeswoman provided the reports to the AP.

In April 2006, Belcher punched his fist through a dorm window after becoming upset over a woman, documents said.

And in February 2007, a noise complaint was lodged after "a discussion

outside of his room" between Belcher and a woman. The report says "both stated that she was to contact him by 23:00 hours and did not. He became worried and when she did show up he told her that he did not want to see her until the morning."

Also Tuesday, police posted a brief audio recording of some of Saturday morning's dispatch traffic. In the 1-minute, 41-second audio compilation, a dispatcher is relaying information about the shooting at Belcher's home.

In one segment, the dispatcher says a 22-year-old woman had been shot at the Belcher address, "possibly by her son."

In another segment, the dispatcher says someone is at Arrowhead with an unknown weapon and later that an "unknown party at the (Chiefs) practice field confronted the staff and they don't know what he's armed with."

Snapp said that was the only audio police planned to release regarding the shootings.

Progress for Tiger, but still a long way to go



THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Ian Poulter finished his final round at the World Challenge and was chatting next to the clubhouse at Sherwood

when he stopped in the middle of a sentence and changed his tone to one of grave concern.

“What is Tiger doing in a buggy?” he said.

His eyes were fixed on a large video board down the hill and across the 18th fairway that showed Tiger Woods being driven away from the green in the back of a golf cart. The scene was eerily reminiscent to the start of the season at Doral, when Woods withdrew in the middle of the final round because of swelling to his left Achilles tendon.

Moments later, Poulter realized this merely was the shuttle that took players to the 14th tee at the top of a steep hill.

Exhale.

“I was like, ‘Hang on a minute.’ I thought he might have slipped down a bank and done himself in,” Poulter said.

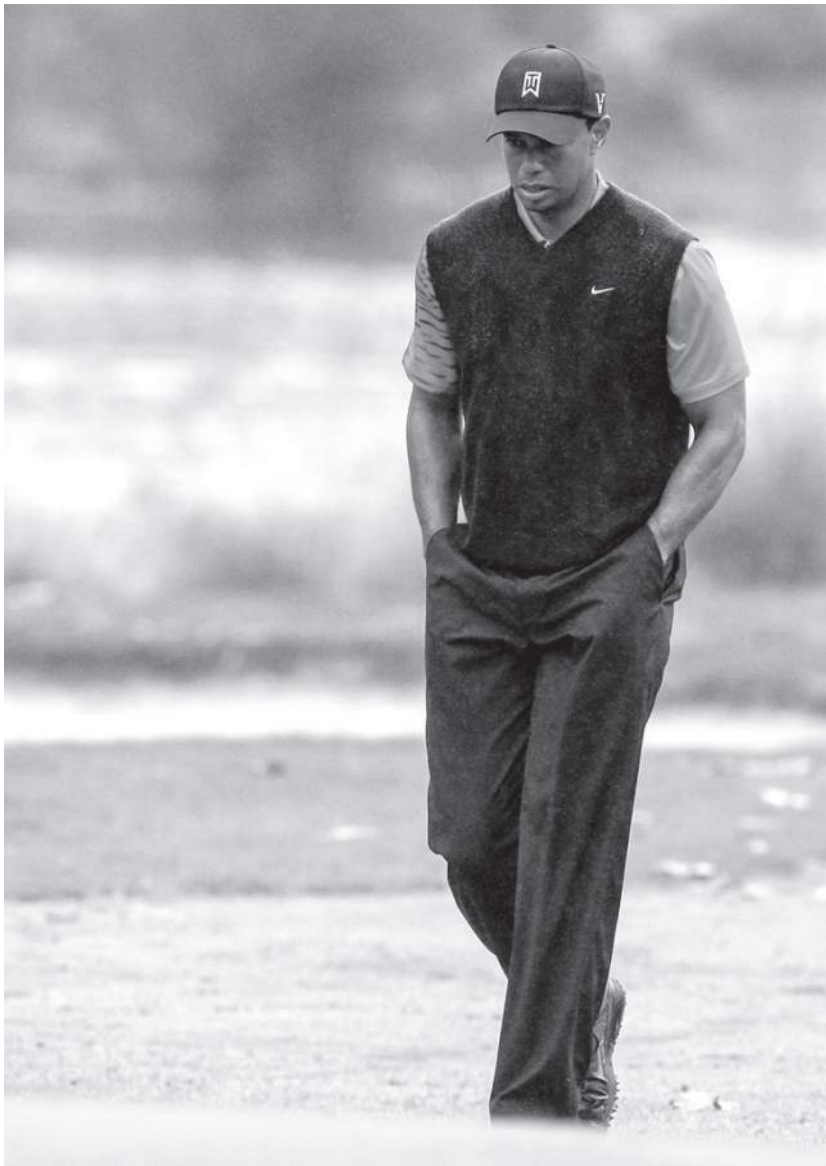
All things considered, it was a reasonable rush to judgment.

Woods has endured some strange seasons during the last few years, and this would qualify as one of them.

Go back to that Sunday afternoon at Doral when Woods was taken off the course in a cart, and the TV shot from a helicopter that showed him driving away in what might as well have been a white Bronco. It raised questions about whether he could ever be the dominant player he once had been.

And then he won his very next tournament at Bay Hill, his first PGA Tour title in more than two years.

Woods’ mystique looked as if it might be returning when, at one tournament (Memorial), he faced an impossible shot and chipped in for birdie that carried him to victory. In another,



Tiger Woods walks to the green on the fourth hole during the final round of the World Challenge golf tournament at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif., Saturday, Dec. 2, 2012.

he was on the ropes late in the final round until his challenger threw away a chance to beat him (Bo Van Pelt at the AT&T National).

Then there were the majors.

Woods had at least a share of the 36-hole lead in the U.S. Open and PGA Championship. Not only did he fail to win, he didn’t even finish in

the top 10.

For years, Woods said it could not be a great year without winning a major, and he still believes that. Throw in some extenuating circumstances, such as his physical health, and he considers 2012 to be a “pretty good accomplishment.”

He won three times, which would

have been considered a down year against his old standard.

So where is he now?

In about the same spot he was in this time a year ago, only for different reasons.

Going into 2012, what appeared to be holding him back from being the dominant player was his own game. Going into 2013, he doesn’t look like the dominant player because of someone else—Rory McIlroy.

McIlroy was voted PGA Tour player of the year Tuesday, presumably by the kind of margin that routinely once belonged to Woods. McIlroy won a tour-high four tournaments, including a major, the money list and the Vardon Trophy for lowest scoring average. That’s a dominant year.

There have been 11 changes among four players at No. 1 in the world since Woods abandoned the spot toward the end of the 2010 season, and it has looked like a game of musical chairs. That’s no longer the case. McIlroy found another gear in August, and he now has the largest margin in the ranking since the glory days of Woods.

The player Woods is trying to beat has that beautiful blend of balance and power, and he can putt. That’s tough to beat. Plus, McIlroy is still only 23 and doesn’t have four knee surgeries behind him.

Then again, there has never been another player like Woods in the modern game, so he can’t be ruled out.

Jack Nicklaus set the standard with 18 majors, the record Woods is trying to catch. Not even Nicklaus won as prolifically as Woods at this stage in their careers, however, which is why it’s foolish to write off Woods—not only in his pursuit of Nicklaus in the record book, but of McIlroy on the golf course.

Woods still points to his health, and he is quick to note that this was his first full season since 2009 (even that one

didn’t start until Match Play in late February because he was coming off major knee surgery).

“I still feel I have some of my best golf to play, and in order to do that, I had to be healthy, and this year is headed in the right direction,” Woods said. “I’m very excited about next year. Rory is ranked No.1. He deserves it. He’s won tournaments all around the world. He’s had high finishes on top of that, and that’s how you do it. ... He should be very proud of the season he’s had, and I’m sure he’s excited about what next year holds for him, as well.”

Woods finished his season with five straight finishes in the top 10, his longest streak since the spring of 2009, though he didn’t win. He planned to put the golf clubs away until after Christmas, except for messing around with his son, Charlie.

The list of improvements is a lot shorter than it was at this time a year ago.

“It’s not a laundry list like it was the last couple years,” Woods said. “I’ve already made the big changes. They’re already in. It’s the little tweaks here and there.”

But the question remains:

If Woods and McIlroy face each other down the stretch, where is your money? That used to be easy to answer no matter who was challenging Woods.

It’s a question U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson wasn’t willing to tackle.

“I’m not going to pick because obviously you’ve got the greatest player of all time versus the guy who’s playing better than anybody in our sport,” Simpson said. “What Rory has done this year is remarkable. ... But again, to choose a player over Tiger would be tough given what he’s done.”

Perhaps a clearer answer will be revealed in 2013. Woods and McIlroy both start the new season Jan. 17 in Abu Dhabi.

Red Sox rev up with Victorino; Nats, Haren close



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Boston Red Sox kept the cash freely

flowing, this time revving their lineup with Shane Victorino, while the well-armed Washington Nationals neared a deal with Dan Haren at baseball’s winter meetings Tuesday.

In the first two trades of the week, Colorado got effective reliever Wilton Lopez and a player to be named from Houston for young right-handers Alex White and Alex Gillingham, and Miami sent recently acquired shortstop Yunel Escobar to Tampa Bay.

Cy Young Award winner R.A. Dickey of the New York Mets is still the prime trade target, with Boston in the mix for him, too.

Josh Hamilton remains the top free agent amid speculation the slugger will re-sign with Texas. Ace pitcher Zack Greinke also is available, with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Rangers very interested.

Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said he’s been involved in the pursuit of one free agent. He didn’t disclose who it was, but seemed to be enjoying this week’s developments.

“It’s like a smorgasbord of baseball.

It’s been good,” Mattingly said.

Boston has been the busiest team this offseason, by far. A day after giving All-Star bat Mike Napoli a \$39 million, three-year deal, the Red Sox lured Victorino with the exact same contract terms. “Can’t wait to get to Boston!” Victorino tweeted during a day of snorkeling in Hawaii.

The Red Sox are coming off their worst season since 1965 and trying to reshape the roster. The 32-year-old Victorino is a two-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove winner who stole a career-high 39 bases for Philadelphia and the Dodgers last season.

Recently, the Red Sox added Jonny Gomes and David Ross.

“I think we’re making the progress that we’ve hoped, at least in the early going, with adding those types of players,” new manager John Farrell said before the Victorino deal.

Victorino’s arrival could also lead to a trade of center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury, coming off a down, injury-interrupted season.

The Nationals and Haren are close to completing a one-year deal for \$13 million, a person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press. The person spoke under condition of

anonymity because no deal was announced.

Washington had the best record in the majors last season. The NL East champions already have a formidable rotation led by Gio Gonzalez and Stephen Strasburg, and want to throw in Haren, an All-Star from 2007-09.

“I’ve got some young guys that act like veterans, and they pitched like veterans last year for me, and a veteran like Dan Haren is just going to make things even better,” Nationals manager Davey Johnson said.

Haren was 12-13 with a 4.33 ERA in 30 starts for the Los Angeles Angels. They nearly traded the 32-year-old righty to the Chicago Cubs for reliever Carlos Marmol after the season, but the deal fell apart. Then the Angels declined their \$15.5 million option and paid a \$3.5 million buyout.

“World Series or bust, that’s probably the slogan this year. But I’m comfortable with that,” Johnson said.

For the Nationals, Red Sox and several other teams, the dollars didn’t appear to matter too much.

“It seems like this is a market flush with money,” Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

The price tag on Hamilton figured

to be high. The 2010 AL MVP came to Nashville this week, presumably to talk to potential new teams, though Texas could be his landing spot.

“I expect we will get together relatively soon,” Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. “I keep reading that we’ve got a deal done. I keep asking the guys in the room who snuck out and did it?”

“We left it as he was going to test the market and once he had an idea of what was out there, then we would talk,” he said. “We haven’t had that conversation yet.”

The Mets and All-Star third baseman David Wright finalized a \$138 million, eight-year contract, the largest deal in team history. The sides reached agreement last week, subject to a physical, and Wright planned to talk about it Wednesday at the meetings.

On Sunday, Dickey was at the Opryland Hotel to see a Mets trainer. The knuckleballer will make \$5.25 million next year and would like an extension. Mets general manager Sandy Alderson briefly met this week with Dickey’s agent, Bo McKinnis.

A trade remains possible.

“Something could happen on either front that would bring this to a con-

clusion, presumably,” Alderson said. “I don’t expect that’s going to happen today. It may not happen tomorrow. It may not happen in Nashville.”

The World Series champion San Francisco Giants kept NL championship series MVP Marco Scutaro, giving the second baseman a \$20 million, three-year contract. Arizona reached a one-year deal with veteran utility man Eric Hinske.

Colorado bolstered its bullpen with Lopez. The 29-year-old righty was 6-3 with 10 saves and a 2.17 ERA in 64 games for the Astros. Known for his sharp control, he struck out 54 and walked just eight in 66 1-3 innings.

The 24-year-old White split last season with the Rockies and Triple-A Colorado Springs. He was 2-9 with a 5.51 ERA in 23 games for the Rockies, including 20 starts.

The 23-year-old Gillingham was 6-8 with a 3.66 ERA at Class A Asheville in his first full pro season.

Escobar’s stay in Miami barely lasted two weeks. The payroll-cutting Marlins sent him and his \$5 million salary across the state for minor league infielder Derek Dietrich.

Escobar was acquired on Nov. 19 in a 12-player trade that sent Jose Reyes, Mark Buehrle and Josh Johnson to Toronto. Escobar batted .253 last season with nine homers and 51 RBIs.

Pacquiao excited and ready to rumble

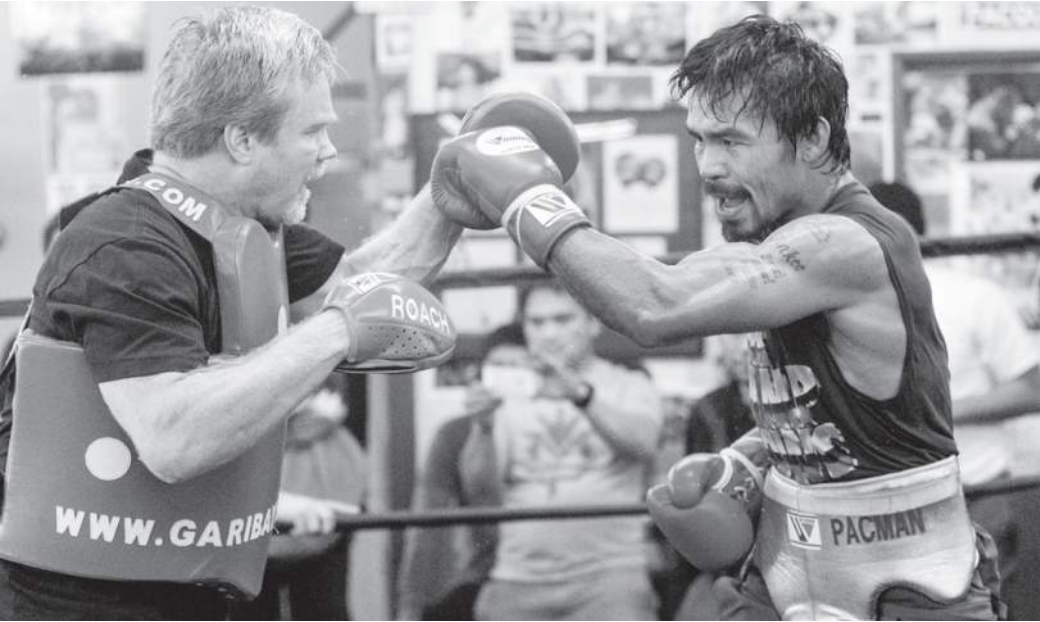
By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



HOLLYWOOD — Manny Pacquiao gave a privileged few a preview of what to expect in his Dec. 8 (Dec. 9 in Manila) showdown with Juan Manuel Marquez.

He was on attack mode in four rounds of sparring, hitting chief trainer Freddie Roach with some hurting punches during their mitts session that officially closed his training camp Monday at Wild Card Gym here.

Roach said it was the hardest punches he'd ever received from Pacquiao, who admitted he put on a show



Manny Pacquiao, right, works out with trainer Freddie Roach in Los Angeles, Monday, Dec. 3, 2012. Pacquiao is scheduled to fight Juan Manuel Marquez in a welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas on Saturday.

for his fans and friends before leaving for Las Vegas late Monday afternoon.

"I was trying to give a sample (of what I'd do against Marquez)," said a grinning Pacquiao. "I intend to attack him, pressure him. I'm excited and ready to fight. Ready to Rumble."

While he's bent on silencing Marquez via a stoppage, Pacquiao said he's also prepared to go the distance (12 rounds).

"It's all in God's hands," said Pacquiao. I'm just thankful that I feel strong and God gives me the strength through the years."

Pacquiao reminisced his early lean years in boxing, with brothers and former world champions Gerry and Dodie Boy Peñalosa listening, as he did abdominal exercises.

"It's been 15 years and I never thought that I would reach this far," said Pacquiao, boxing's only eight-division world champion and honored as Fighter of the Decade, in Filipino.

Asked what made this training camp different, Pacquiao said he took on a more direct role in strategizing the fight against Marquez.

"I'm the one who's suggesting (to Roach)," said Pacquiao, adding that there were no distractions, only more inspirations this time.

Present at the mitts session was 7-foot-1 Ronnie Aguilar, who got waived by the Los Angeles Lakers and Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard.

The 31-year-old Gabbard, an Iraq war veteran who won a seat in Hawaii's state legislature at age 21, was endorsed by Pacquiao, himself a congressman from Sarangani.

GOLDEN

From Page 28

villa in slipping past Santos and Regis in the men's doubles AB, 21-19, 22-20, 21-19.

Cheng Saturno and Janelle Pangelinan closed shop for

the Golden Racquets last Saturday and put their team in the lead with a 21-11, 21-13 victory over Annette Quiambao and Arlene Naguit in the women's BC.

After taking a slim lead, the Golden Racquets erected a 6-2 advantage at the start of last

Sunday's matches with the pairs of Regis and Jordan Pangelinan, Santos and Jen Savellano, and Janelle and Jordan Pangelinan delivering the needed wins.

Regis and Jordan Pangelinan lost the opening set of their men's BC doubles match against Wowie Abuel and Bartolome,

11-21, but still won the pairing after sweeping the last two games, 21-14, 21-19. Santos and Jen Savellano played next and cruised past Arago and Jane Tupas in the mixed doubles AB, 21-11, 21-11.

The Pangelinan siblings then gave the Golden Rac-

quets the insurance win after they dominated Riman and Naguit in the mixed doubles C, 21-18, 21-13.

The Berks Blazers went on to sweep the last two games to cut the deficit to a decent number. Abuel and Tupas joined forces in the penul-

timate match and won over Jen Savellano and Omori in the mixed doubles B, 17-21, 21-7, 23-21. Abuel and Tupas made it back-to-back when they triumphed over Eydie Uy and Janelle Pangelinan in the mixed doubles BC, 15-21, 21-9, 21-18.

D'CYCLERS

From Page 28

In the women's division, Bike Chat 115's Kanae Quinn and Angie Mister also made it to the finish line way ahead of Hippy Chicks' Norma Ada and Amy Sletten. Quinn and Mister timed in at 4:16:30.56 against the 4:38:51.12 of Ada and Sletten.

Tina Goodwin and Derek

Chambers of Team Texas recorded the second best time in the 2-person road race and was only the second team in the division to break the 4-hour mark after clocking in at 3:59:07.09.

Saipan Bike Pro, Bikers Act win

In the 4-person race, Saipan Bike Pro and Bikers Act were the top finishers in the road and mountain bike divisions, respectively.

Saipan Bike Pro is composed of Romeo Lanuza, Regina Seibal, Bernard Laborce, and Ariel Garcia and their 3:41:32.12 bested two other teams in the mixed division and was the fastest time in the road bike field.

Saipan Bike Pro finished more than one hour ahead of runner-up Rolling Thunder, which had Colin Thompson, Robert Torres, Ryan Jimenez, and Lyn Tenorio as bikers and logged 4:53:04.18.

P4+1's Jude Hofschneider, Esther Ada, Sheryl Sizemore, and Juanita Fajardo came in at third after clocking in at 5:21:17.15.

In the men's division Team Manatee's Steve Nutting, John Jones, Mark Blackburn, and Jim Arenovski tallied 4:37:40.62 to beat the 4:49:00.62 of Team No Cramps' Raymund Tolentino, Derick Apasan, Jan Pepito, and Bhoie Hernandez.

In the mountain bike division,

Bikers Act spoiled Bikers Association on Tinian's Hell debut, as the former checked in at 4:01:53.04, about six minutes faster than the latter's time of 4:07:52.75. Bikers Act is composed of Rommel Tiosejo, Walter Brillo, Arvin Bacani, and Michael Calibo, while BAT's members include Richard Lazardo, Norio Jacosalem, Arwin Reyes, and Andy Cacabelos. Rounding out the Top 3 were Peter Sablan, Brett Nelson, Sean

Frink, and Rex Kosack of Late Entry (4:24:33.75).

Other finishers in the men's mountain bike division were Allen Perez, Zachariah and Julian Hofschneider, and Dennis Deala of Just 4 Fun (5:09:43.78); Gyung Gu Rhee, Ryushic Hahn, Yong Gon Kim, and Perry Tenorio of Team Sunshine (5:20:55); and Jerry Facey, Richard Pierce, James Hofschneider, and Rant Harper of Heart Throbs (5:30:39.50).

ALL

From Page 28

lbs) title brawl between current defending local champ Mark "The Dark" Nuique (8-1) in an electric rematch against Countershot MMA's Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez (11-5).

Alvarez issued Nuique his first loss in Pacific Xtreme Combat 32 in Guam back in July and the Trench Tech standout is naturally out for redemption though both fighters are undefeated on CNMI soil.

Following the bantamweights, Spike 22's Jared "The Haole Horror" Mellon (1-0) will square off with "No Way" Jose Mafnas (1-1) for the mid-

dleweight (185 lbs) belt. Melon earned the title bid after bagging a pair of dominating victories in past Trench Tech events, despite one being recorded as an amateur match; he has two other amateur appearances in PXC as well.

Mafnas' fight record may imply inexperience, however he has a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu purple belt under Eagan Inoue, of Grapplers Unlimited in Hawaii, on top of seven years of training with Trench Tech.

After Melon and Mafnas settle things out, the big boys will step into the cage to send the crowd off with a bang in the heavyweight (206 lbs and up) title scrap, which features home bet Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter

(3-1) pitted against Guam Muay Thai's Marquis Navarro (2-1).

The six other MMA matches that lead into the late card spectacle include a couple of Trench Tech versus Spike 22 featherweight pairings between 670's Chris "No Luv" Layuug (5-3) and Elliot Untalan (2-0) and the CNMI's Jomar Dynamite Danas debuting against Mikey Vidauri (3-1).

In addition, a 150-lb catch weight double debut is set between Team Legit's L.J. "Mak'po" George and Zeng Zung's Rino Reyes; as well as a 140-lb catch weight battle between Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar (3-12) and Tinian's Peter Cepeda (1-1) of Team Relentless.

Meanwhile, a bantamweight

clash has been set between Countershot's Leandro "Leanderlei" Dalalo (0-1) and Predator Combat's "Tabi" Jay Muna (2-14); a flyweight grudge match is also being thrown in the wash between local independents Leonard "Machine Gun" Sablan and K.J. Villagomez; and Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios (6-3) is expected to make his return after a lengthy break away from the octagon, though his bout is yet to be confirmed.

The K-1 Kickboxing pairings have been changed and will now feature Guam's Ricky Camp, of Spike 22's taking on Zeng Zung's Regino "The Kid" Mundo (4-1) and Guam Muay Thai's D.J. Duenas in his debut against fellow bantamweight Jordan

Manglona (1-1), of Zalaka.

K-1 notables include Camp being an experienced MMA fighter with a nice collection of three wins and a loss, though he will not be allowed to employ any grappling and submission tactics this go around; Manglona is riding high after evening out his K-1 card in ROP 13 this past September.

The action kicks off on Dec. 14 at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

Tickets are on sale now at

Tha Trapp, the Docomo Pacific main office in Gualo Rai and Boarderline. They will also be available for purchase at the door; general admission costs \$25 per person or upgrade to VIP seating for \$35.

This is the tentative fight card, which is subject to change; fight records were traced primarily through Sherdog.com, the self-proclaimed global authority in MMA.

Contact Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez at 483-4MMA (4662) for more information.

HALL

From Page 28

nas, Antonio Benavente, Jess Wabol, Frank Castro, Jeff Race, Tino Olopai, and Ben Saurez, who was inducted into the class early this year.

The CNMI Hall of Fame was created in 2003 through House Bill 13-113, introduced by Reps. Daniel O. Quitugua, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, and aimed at recognizing individuals who made big

contributions to the development of sports in the Commonwealth.

Uni Games, Mini Games deadlines

Meanwhile, today is also the deadline for the submission of a letter of expression of interest for the 2013 University Games and 2013 Pacific Mini Games.

The 27th Summer Universiade will take place in Kazan, Russia from July 6 to 17 with 27 sports scheduled in the 12-day competition. The CNMI can send as much as four athletes to

the tournament for students in the 17 to 28 age group and enrolled in a university/college or post secondary course.

In last year's meeting, beach volleyball and golf associations had expressed interest in sending athletes to Kazan.

Meanwhile, the Mini Games will run from Sept. 2 to 12 in Wallis & Futuna with athletics, beach volleyball, rugby 7s, sailing, taekwondo, canoe racing, volleyball, and weightlifting included in the calendar of events.

"NMASA needs to hear from

you on your letterhead, signed by your president or secretary general, expressing an interest in participating and indicating the number and gender of athletes you are considering sending," White added in his email to NMASA members.

Local sports groups made no commitment for the Mini Games in last month's NMASA meeting, as they are expected to struggle for funding for the Wallis & Futuna trip. Airfare alone for next year's Mini Games costs around \$3,000.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	12	4	.750	—
Brooklyn	11	6	.647	1½
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	3
Boston	9	8	.529	3½
Toronto	4	14	.222	9

Southeast Division

Miami	12	4	.750	—
Atlanta	9	5	.643	2
Charlotte	7	9	.438	5
Orlando	7	10	.412	5½
Washington	2	13	.133	9½

Central Division

Milwaukee	8	8	.500	—
Indiana	9	9	.500	—
Chicago	8	8	.500	—
Detroit	6	13	.316	3½
Cleveland	4	14	.222	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	13	3	.813	—
San Antonio	14	4	.778	—
Houston	9	8	.529	4½
Dallas	8	9	.471	5½
New Orleans	5	11	.313	8

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	15	4	.789	—
Denver	9	9	.500	5½
Minnesota	8	8	.500	5½
Utah	9	10	.474	6
Portland	8	10	.444	6½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	11	6	.647	—
Golden State	10	7	.588	1
L.A. Lakers	8	10	.444	3½
Phoenix	7	12	.368	5
Sacramento	4	12	.250	6½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Bikers head out to the course of last Saturday's 6th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



Spectators watch Mieklo Carey and company pedal down Capital Hill.



A group of riders makes an uphill turn in Papago.



Bikers head to Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.



Russia's Alexey Chalklov paces the third lead group heading to Kingfisher.



KSPN's Bob Coldeen takes video footages of a group of bikers going up Radar Station.



Two off-island bikers head down the narrow road at Radar Station.



Russ Quinn tries to get out of traffic in Mobil Kagman.



Russia's Oleg Golubev and Guam's Cameron O'Neal sprint to the finish line.



Australia's Jodie Willet acknowledges the crowd, as she nears the finish line.



Wizards beat Heat for second win of season

24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Progress for Tiger, but still a long way to go

25



28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Golden Racquets spoils Blazers' final return bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Golden Racquets foiled a finals rematch in the 2012 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament after outclassing the Berks Blazers, 6-4, in their semis duel over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

The Berks Blazers battled Saipan Badminton Club in last year's finals, but will miss this weekend's championship round and will have to settle for the consolation game against Shirley's/Colgate Badminton Club after falling short against the resurgent Golden Racquets.

Going into the semifinals, the Golden Racquets had the slight advantage over the Blazers, having beaten the latter in the elimination round, 7-3, and the former capitalized, taking early control of the semis tiff to set up a finals showdown against SBC.

The Golden Racquets took a 3-2 lead in the first half of the semis last Saturday and then swept the opening three games

at the continuation of the pairing last Sunday to eliminate the Berks Blazers.

The Berks Blazers drew first blood last Saturday with Macoi Aguda and Ferdie Arago downing Noli Santos and Edwin Montoya in the men's doubles A, 21-10, 21-17. Jojo Savellano and Vic Regis then tied the match after also sweeping John Revilla and Rommel Bartolome in the men's doubles B, 21-13, 21-13.

The Golden Racquets recorded its second win, courtesy of Kanata Omori and Jordan Pangelinan, who topped Bartolome and Jeff Riman in the men's C doubles, 21-13, 21-18, but the Blazers tied the match anew with Arago teaming up with Re-

See GOLDEN on Page 26



The Golden Racquets' Vic Regis, right, stretches for a return, while teammate Jordan Pangelinan looks on during their elimination game against the Berks Blazers' Jeff Riman and Rommel Bartolome in the Traders Insurance badminton tournament late last month at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

All 4 title matches still a go in Trench Tech 16

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' Trench Warz 16: Fire Power! has trimmed down its fight card over the weekend, but rest assured its four title bouts are all still expected to go down without a hitch.

Trench Warz 16's headliner matches feature a select group of Trench Tech's top contenders taking on some off-island talent from Guam.

As of last Monday, the Trench



Lassiter



Navarro

Warz 16 fight card now lists 10 mixed martial arts matches, instead of a prior total of 14 and two K-1 kickboxing exhibitions.

As mentioned, the four championship duels remain the same as scheduled and include the

flyweight (125 lbs) title bout between tge CNMI's Josh "Chaos" Duenas (2-3), and Tiyan Tough Walkers' Dylan "DSP" Pablo (2-1) followed by the highly anticipated bantamweight (135

See ALL on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

D'Cyclers' Fred Camacho, center, Butch Sublemente, and Cesar Fortaleza head down Capital Hill after completing the Kingfisher route during last Saturday's 6th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

D'Cyclers tops road bike race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The D'Cyclers' Fred Camacho and Ricky Melchor were the runaway winners in the 2-person road bike division of last Saturday's 6th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle Race.

Melchor and Camacho finished the 100-kilometer race in 3:41:20.21, about one hour ahead

of the runner-up team in the men's division. The duo's winning time was also the fastest in the 2-person road bike race.

HAF-A-LOHA's Ben Babauta and Charles David were in distant second with their combined time of 4:31:41.09, while Jeff Taylor and David Banes rounded out the Top 3 after clocking in at 4:48:05.34. Team CEC's Jordan Jackson and Derek Raska completed the field, submitting a time of 5:19:19.53.

See D'CYCLERS on Page 26

Hall of Fame nominations due today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Local sports associations have only until today to submit their nomination for the elite CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.

The nominee or nominees, if approved, will be inducted to the 2013 class in Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association's annual awards presentation in



White

February next year.

"Hall of Fame nominations must be presented in writing at the

meeting (today at 7pm). Nominations must be made on your federation's letterhead and signed by your president or secretary general," NMASA president Mi-

chael White said in an email sent to NMASA members.

So far, 15 had already been inducted to the prestigious group with Bill and Jean Sakovich, Tony Rogolifoi, and Mike Villagomez the first ones to be included in the Hall of Fame in 2004. Following them were the late Irene Alpet, Tony Satur, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, Kurt Barnes, Cecilia Lisua, Jose Tenorio Sablan, Ricardo Due-

See HALL on Page 26